



Empowering Tribals, Transforming J&K

Historic Step for Inclusive Development

Communities getting benefits of ST reservation

- Balti
- Beda
- Bot, Boto
- Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin
- Changpa
- Garra
- Mon
- Purigpa
- Gujjar
- Bakarwal
- Gaddi
- Sippi

Additional Communities who will get benefits of ST reservation

- Pahari Ethnic Group
- Paddari Tribe
- Koli
- Gadda Brahmin
- Based on **SEBC Commission Recommendations**
- **Additional & proportionate reservation will be provided separately for above communities**



Existing Communities including Gujjar Bakarwal will continue to get the 10% reservation and there will be no reduction in it

Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIP/J-14817/23

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. RATTAN RANI** (PIITI JIGRI) W/O LATE SH. DWARIKA NATH RAINA ORIGINALLY FROM KHA BAZAR ANANTNAG PRESENTLY AT 88/B, SECTOR 2, DURGA NAGAR, ROOP NAGAR, JAMMU ON 5TH FEB 2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT AKHNOOR GHAT FOLLOWED BY ASSEMBLY AT MUTHI GHAT ON 14TH FEB 2024 AT 10:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN LAW**

DR. SANJAY RAINA AND SMT. PUSHPA BHAT RAINA SH. KULBUSHAN RAINA AND SMT. ANJALI RAINA

DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW

SMT. NANA RAINA AND SH. VIJAY KUMAR PANDIT SMT. RAJNI KOUL AND SH. VIJAY KOUL SMT. BASANTI RAINA AND SH. ROMESH CHANDER PANDITA

GRAND CHILDREN

RAHUL PANDIT AND SINDHIYA PANDIT PRAYERNA KOUL AND SAMEER SAWAKARE DEEPSHIKHA PANDIT AND ANKUSH KOUL ANKUSH KOUL, ASHISH PANDITA AND ARSH RAINA
CONTACT NO: 9419194594, 9419217147, 9419136715



SMT. RATTAN RANI
(PIITI JIGRI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to intimate the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Banti Raina** W/o Sh. Manoj Krishan Raina on February 2, 2024 originally resident of Sher-i-Kashmir Colony, Anantnag and presently at H.No. 122/A, Lane No. 2, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 11th February 2024 (Sunday) at Bhader Ghat Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan, Thalwal, Jammu. **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN**(Mother-in-law & Father-in-law)**

Smt. Shanta Koul & Sh. A.N. Raina
Sh. Manoj Krishan Raina (**Husband**)

Yashika Raina (Muskan) (**Daughter**)

Smt. Sharika Kakroo & Sh. Sunil Ji Kakroo (**Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law**)

Smt. Geeta Raina & Sh. Deep Raina (**Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law**)

Mobile: 9555027347, 9797580290, 9797555400



Smt. Banti Raina

TENTH DAY AND KRIYA

With profound grief and heavy heart, it is inform that our beloved mother **Late Smt. Krishna Devi** W/o Late Sh. Ram Lal Mengi R/o Ward No. 2 House No. 49 Tea Garden Katra had left for her heavenly abode on 31/1/24.

Tenth Day will be performed on 8/2/2024 at our residence at 11:00am. and **Kriya** will be performed on 11/2/24(Sunday) at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:**Sons & Daughter in law**

Ashok Mengi & Kanta Mengi
Narinder (Bittu) & Neelam Mengi

Daughter & Son in law

Sunita Kapoor & Ajeet Kapoor
Suman Nayyar & Rakesh Nayyar

Grand Sons:

Pankaj Mengi, Rohit Mengi, Abhi Mengi, Abhishek Mengi

Grand Daughter in law

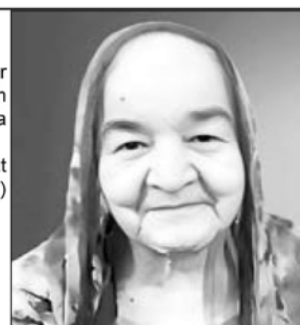
Ishita Mengi, Palak Mengi, Sonali Mengi

and All Family members

9419164580, 9858690000

M/s Narinder Conf. Store (Bittu Fully wale)

Ashoka Filling Station



Late Smt. Krishna Devi

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and peaceful demise of our mother, **Sardarni Inderjeet Kaur** W/o Lt. Sardar Gopal Singh, Retd ACF (Kutti Muzaffarabad) who left for her heavenly abode on Thursday, 1 Feb 2024.

Bhog and Antim Ardas shall be performed as per following:
- Arambh Shri Akhand Paath Sahib on Thursday, 8 Feb 2024 at 9:00 AM at our residence (38-B, Sector 7 Extn, Vaishnavi Enclave, Channi Himmat)
- Bhog Shri Akhand Paath Sahib on Saturday, 10 Feb 2024 at 9:30 AM
- Kirtan and Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Guru Ka Baag, Channi Himmat from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

DEEPLY MOURNED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Er. Parvinder Singh (Retd S.E.) & Sardarni Amarjeet Kaur
- Lt. Er. Gurdinder Singh (A. E. E. PDD) & Sardarni Pushpinder Kaur
- Lt. Dr. Daljeet Singh & Sardarni Dalbir Kaur

Grand Daughter & Grand Sons-in-law

- Sudeep Kaur & Dr. Harbinder Pal Singh (Baramulla)
- Er. Sainyam Kaur & Er. Arshdeep Singh (Canada)

Grandsons & Grand Daughters-in-law

- Er. Ramandeep Singh & Veronica (USA)
- Amandeep Singh (UK)
- Er. Ravneet Singh & Er. Harpreet Kaur (USA)
- Barneet Singh & Gazalgeet Kaur (Dubai)
- Er. Harjot Singh & Er. Sahiba Kaur (USA)

Great Grand Daughters & Sons
- Ekaagar Kaur
- Simran Kaur
- Nivaan Singh
- Baneer Kaur



Sardarni Inderjeet Kaur

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA (RASAM PAGRI)

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Kusum Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Purn Chand Basotra R/o 224-A Shastri Nagar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 01-02-2024.

10th Day will be performed on 10-02-2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 11.00 AM onwards
Kriya will be performed on 11-02-2024 (Sunday) from 09.00 AM onwards at our residence.

Rasam Pagri /Uthala shall be performed on 16-02-2024 (Friday) from 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Son & Daughter in Law**

Sh. Hitesh Basotra (Ass. Professor) & Kiran Devi (HOD DIET)

Daughters & Son in Laws

Smt Rekha Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma (Canada)

Smt Anjana Sharma (Master) & Sh. Rajeev Sharma (XEN PDD)

Smt Ranjana Sharma & Sh. Rajeev Sharma (PDD Deptt)

Grand Children: Sagun Basotra (Dubai), Abhi Roop Sharma (Canada)

Nipun Basotra, Shimalika, Ingita, Tushar, (Canada), Tanmay, Vaibhav.



SMT KUSUM SHARMA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mr. Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal** S/o Sh Daljeet Singh Jamwal R/o H No 183 Sec-9, Nanak Nagar, Jammu. Who left for the heavenly abode on 1st Feb 2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 10/02/2024 (Saturday)

at House No 183, Sector 9, Nanak Nagar Jammu at 08.30 AM

Kriya will be performed on 13/02/2024 (Tuesday)

at residence at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Jeeto Devi & Daljeet Singh Jamwal - Mother & Father # 9419203181

Nirmala Devi & Harnam Singh Jamwal - Tayi & Taya Ji

Lokeshwar Singh Jamwal - Brother # 9086666696, 9682189523

Priya & Rajat Sambyal - Sister & Brother In Law # 9858171926, 9796652714



Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal

1st Death Anniversary

Lovingly & Respectfully remembered
Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday.

One year has passed of your physical disappearance. Your "Masvaar & Vaharvaar" are being performed on 9th & 10th of February 2024 at our residence at House No. 8, Lane No. 2, at Surya Vihar Patta Bohri Talab Tillo, Jammu.

We remember you for having been an embodiment of strength and courage and ready to help anybody in need. You had a rare quality of offering your services for any task you were called for. Your grit and attitude towards any task fascinated everyday around you. Above all, you had proved yourself to be the most loving and caring father of your children and grand children. We love you most. What a loving father we lost! All pray for your eternal peace.

Kapil and Rahul -Sons
Anamika -Daughter-in-law
& All Elders and Youngsters of Kachroo Family
Mob No's: 99684-32727, 78899-32848, 94192-17974



A.K. KACHROO

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Rani** W/o Sh. Madan Mohan Sharma R/o Makara (Sunderbani) who left for heavenly abode on 26-01-2024.

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 11-02-2024 at 3 PM at our residence Makara (Sunderbani).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Madan Mohan Sharma (Retd Z.E.O.)- **Husband**

Daughter-in-laws & Sons

Smt. Sarita Sharma and Sh. Rajesh Sharma

Smt. Pooja Devi and Sh. Govind Sharma

Smt. Parveen Lata and Sh. Gopal Sharma

Sister-in-laws and Brother-in-laws

Smt. Shakuntla Devi and Sh. Kuldip Raj

Smt. Shashi Bala and Sh. Ram Paul

Grand Children: Rishika, Aradhya, Bashika, Drishti,

Divyansh, Sanvi, Hariansh, Navya



Smt. Shakuntla Rani

MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Dulari Razdan** W/o Sh. S.N. Razdan and Daughter of Late Ram Chand Mahaldar & Lt. Smt. Leelavati Mahaldar of Zaindar Mohalla Srinagar. Presently at 25-C Karan Jammu on 3-2-2024.

We pray for Moksha to her eternal soul

IN GRIEF

B.K. Mahaldar & Nancy

Smt. Rekhaji Mahaldar

D. K. Koul & Raj Kumari

Smt. Veena Ji Mahaldar

Rajeev Koul & Bunty

Sanjay Bhat & Sonu

Opendar Kariholu & Vijay Ji

Ashwani Kariholu & Basanti

Satish Koul & Kandy



SMT. RAJ DULARI RAZDAN

MOB: 9419190196

TENTH DAY KRIYA/CHANGE OF VENUE

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to intimate the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ramesh Kumar Dhar** S/o Late Shamboo Nath Dhar on 03 February 2024 originally from Yore Khoshi Pora (Qazigund) District Anantnag A/P Jagti Township Nagrota Block 102, Flat 14, Lane 19(Jammu).

10th Day Kriya will now be performed at River Ghat behind Trt Migrant Camp Nagrota instead of Muthi Ghat on 11th February 2024 (Sunday) at 8:30 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Pooja Dhar - **Wife**

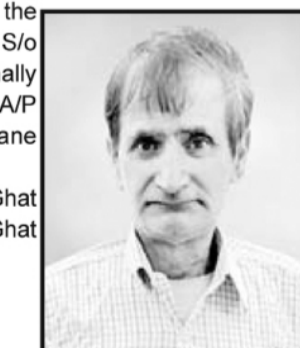
Sahil Dhar - **Son**

Kajal Dhar - **Daughter**

Vijay Dhar - **Bhabhi**

All Near and Dear Ones

Contact No: 9149877153, 7051206633, 7006880817



SH. RAMESH KUMAR DHAR

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Jyoti Gupta** W/o Sh. Kulbushan Gupta R/o Ward No. 59 Surkasha Vihar Paloura Top, Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 10-02-2024 (Saturday) at our residence at 11.00 am.

Grief Stricken**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**

Sh. Arun Gupta & Smt. Shivani Gupta

Sh. Vivek Gupta & Smt. Abilasha Gupta

Daughters & Son-in-laws

Smt. Palvi Gupta & Sh. Sanjeev Gupta

Smt. Kajal Gupta & Sh. Tushar Gupta

Grand Children: Samaksh, Yuvaan, Amaira, Ayushi, Anika, Advi

Mobile No: 9906171803, 9116056898



Smt. Jyoti Gupta

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Dwarka Nath Bhat** S/o Lt. Shri Gopi Nath Bhat originally from Kulgam Kashmir at present H.No. 126/A, Sector-1, Vinayak Nagar Muthi, Jammu Near Panposh Gen. Store on 2 Feb. 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 11 Feb. 2024 followed by the **Assembly** at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education Muthi at 10.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Smt. Nancy Bhat & Sh. Rajesh Kumar Bhat

Daughters & Son-in-law

Smt. Jeeta Pandita & Sh. Purn Krishen Pandita

Karshan Saraf & Dr. Suresh Saraf

Sh. T.N. Koul - **Brother-in-law**

Smt. Rajdulari Raina - **Sister**

Grand Children:

Ashish Pandita & Anjana Pandita

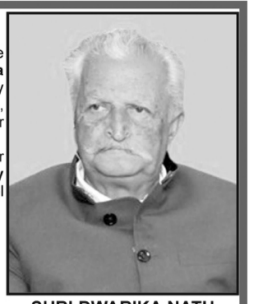
Parneel Saraf & Sumedha Saraf

Akshaya Pandita & Harshita Pandita

Divya & Ashutosh

Suvenih, Sonali

Mob.No: 9419149835, 7006910548, 6006912971



SHRI DWARIKA NATH BHAT

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar** S/o Late Sh. Mahanand Ram Dhar from Khawwara Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara Kashmir A/P Lane No. 16, Block No. 72, Flat No. 22, Jagti Migrant Camp Nagrota Jammu on 4/2/2024 (Sunday)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 13/2/2024 (Tuesday) at 9:00 am at Near Sainik School Nagrota Jammu and **Assembly** will be held at 10.30 am at Jagti Camp Lane No. 22, Near Old JK Bank ATM Community Hall.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Teja Dhar (Wife)

Sh. K.L. Dhar (Brother)

Sh. R.L. Dhar & Smt. Seema Dhar (Brother & Bhabhi)

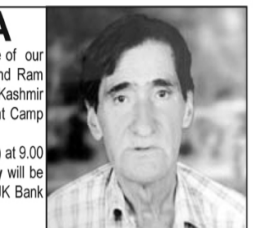
Bhawna Dhar & Sh. Ramesh Kumar (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Rahul Dhar & Sheetal Dhar (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Diksha Dhar (Daughter)

Siddhi Koul (Grand Daughter)

Mobile: 6006404172, 9906113425, 9596838555



Sh. Avtar Krishan Dhar

CHOUBARSI

Memories are the most valuable treasure and your memories will always stay in our hearts. We still yearn for your love and your warmth is imprinted in our souls. We hold dear to us, your lessons that have helped us through our lives and are grateful for your blessings. You will forever inspire us to become better versions of ourselves and we will continue to follow the path that you have led us to.

CHOUBARSI of our beloved **S. Rangeel Singh Sasan** S/o S. Sohan Singh Sasan, R/o 80/6, Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu will be performed as per the below programme.

PROGRAMME:

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: On 09th February 2024 (Friday) at 10.30AM at Gurudwara Sant Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: On 11th February 2024 (Sunday) at 10.30AM at Gurudwara Sant Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

KIRTAN & ARDAS: On 11th February 2024 from 10.30 AM to 12.00AM at Gurudwara Sant Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Er. Bikramjeet Singh Sasan & Sdn. Amit Kour (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)

Er. Jasmeet Singh Sasan & Sdn. Supreet Kour (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)

Er. Amoldeep Singh Sasan & Sdn. Rosemeen Kour (**Son & Daughter-in-Law**)

Sdn. Navdeep Kour & S. Amandeep Singh Raina (**Daughter & Son-in-Law**)

Grand Children: Harjaget, Pranjoti, Jasnah, Ragya, Japnoor

CONTACT: 7006958882, 9880402665



S. RANGEEL SINGH SASAN

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow **Karmayogini Smt. Gouri Shori Kaul** W/o Lt. Shamboonath Kaul R/o Azad Basti Nalipora Srinagar presently residing at M504 KDP Grand Savanna Raj Nagar Extension has left for the heavenly abode.

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Camila Mendes talks about the rom-com Upgraded

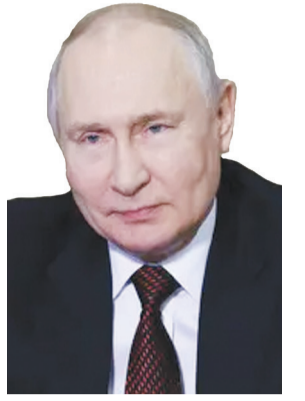


NATIONAL | 7

"Detailed Probe Will Be Done": Ajit Pawar On Team Thackeray Leader's Murder

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Putin accuses West of 'prolonging Ukraine conflict', urges US to halt arms supply



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-39 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

India has nearly 97 cr voters now: EC

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): The Election Commission on Friday said nearly 97 crore Indians will be eligible to vote in this year's Lok Sabha elections.

It also said over two crore young electors in age group of 18 to 29 years have been added in the voters' list.

There has been a six per cent increase in registered voters from 2019, when the last Lok Sabha polls were held.

Tax Bar Association felicitates Comm PK Bhat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Tax Bar Association Jammu on Friday welcomed and felicitate newly appointed Commissioner State Taxes PK Bhat along with Additional Commissioner State Taxes Nimarta Dogra here at Tax Bar Room Office at Rail Head Complex, here.

The event organized under the leadership of Tax Bar Association Jammu President Rakesh Kapahi.

The felicitation programme was followed with interactive session between the guests and the worthy members of tax bar association.

Senior Vice President Adv. Vikram Dubey, Vice President Adv. Renu Verma, General Secretary Adv. Dheeraj Bhasin, and Joint Secretary and Treasurer Adv. Ishant Gupta were also present on this occasion.

■ Turn to page 9

Pahalgam shivers at minus 10.3°C amid intense cold wave

JAMMU, Feb 9 (Agencies): There was no respite from intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir as the minimum temperatures stayed several degrees below freezing point at most places in the valley today (February 9), officials said in Srinagar. The mercury in Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir fell to minus 9.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded the lowest temperature in the valley last night at minus 10.3 degrees Celsius.

Centre confers Bharat Ratna on former PMs Charan Singh and Narasimha Rao, M.S. Swaminathan

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that the Centre will be conferring India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna to two former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh and to agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan. The Centre recently conferred Bharat Ratna to veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani.

Announcing the award for former prime ministers, Modi tweeted, "Delighted to share that our former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao Garu, will



be honoured with the Bharat Ratna. As a distinguished scholar and statesman, Narasimha Rao Garu served India extensively in various capacities." Stressing upon the economic policies during Rao's regime which opened Indian market to the world, Modi tweeted,

"His visionary leadership was instrumental in making India economically advanced, laying a solid foundation for the country's prosperity and growth. Narasimha Rao Garu's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by significant measures that opened India to global markets, fostering

a new era of economic development."

Talking about Chaudhary Charan Singh, Modi said, "This honour is dedicated to his incomparable contribution to the country. He had dedicated his entire life to the rights and welfare of farmers.

Be it the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh or the Home Minister of the country and even as an MLA, he always gave impetus to nation building. He also stood firm against the Emergency." The Janata Party leader served as PM from July 28, 1979 - January 14, 1980.

■ Turn to page 9

Over 1000 financial frauds reported in J&K in 2023

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 9 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1046 financial frauds amounting to over Rs 786.56 lakh in 2023. These financial fraud cases were registered on Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System.

The system, established under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre by the Ministry of Home Affairs, serves as a vital platform for reporting and managing financial fraud cases.

According to data, an additional 253 cases of financial fraud of Rs 62.55 lakh were tempo-

rarily suspended. The figures underscore the severity of the issue, shedding light on the growing challenge of financial cyber frauds across the region.

At the national level, the statistics are equally alarming, with a total of 1.13 million financial cyber fraud cases reported in the country in 2023. Uttar Pradesh emerged as the most affected state, witnessing approximately 200,000 cases, followed by Maharashtra (130,000), Gujarat (120,000), and Rajasthan and Haryana (80,000 each). Lakshadweep reported the lowest number of only 29 cases.

■ Turn to page 9

Women, son traced out, reunite with family

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 9: Kishtwar police successfully recovered a lady and her minor kids after intensive efforts. The lady has now been reunited with her family.

Police Station Kishtwar received a written complaint about kidnapping of lady along with her kids whose name is being withheld.

Based on this report, a case FIR No. 271/2023 at PS Kishtwar and an investigation was initiated.

■ Turn to page 9

Shrine Board conferred with 'Sport for Social Good' Award at Sportstar Aces Awards

Arjuna awardee Para archer Sheetal Devi receives 2 Awards

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 9: In a major achievement, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has been conferred with Chairperson's Choice - Sport for Social Good Award at Sportstar Aces Awards-2024 held in Mumbai hosted by the Sportstar in recognition of the significant strides made by the Board for extending its support beyond religious realms. Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, the Hindu Group presented the award to Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

This annual event was a celebration of sports and sportspersons which was attended by a galaxy of reputed sportspersons across disciplines.

Anshul Garg, who received the Award on behalf of the Board, thanked the Hindu



Group and dwelt on the aims and objectives of setting up of the Sports Complex, while adding that Shrine Board with a deep-seated commitment to societal betterment has established a comprehensive sports facility in the Katra town in the year 2016 with state-of-the-art sports infrastructure alongwith excellent coaching and training facilities with an aim to identify the talent in the region so that the budding sportspersons can be trained and groomed in the identified key sports to excel and bring laurels in sports events held at

various levels. He further added that this continuous initiative under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT Manoj Sinha has been encouraging the youth and providing them a platform to showcase their talents which reflects the Board's commitment for fostering sportsmanship through competitive physical activities and has played a significant role in developing champions of tomorrow for the country which is being witnessed in the international events represented by our sports

■ Turn to page 9

Rajya Sabha takes up three Bills on J&K

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): The Rajya Sabha on Friday took up for consideration and passage three bills on Jammu and Kashmir that seek to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in local bodies and modify the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union territory.

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024; the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 were passed by the Lok Sabha earlier this week. The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, moved by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, seeks to provide reservation to OBCs in local bodies in the Union territory.

Lok Sabha polls: Congress, AAP lock horns over Bharuch seat in Gujarat

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): The Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party have locked horns over Bharuch parliamentary constituency in Gujarat ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. It is a seat which the BJP has not lost since 1989 but which is of immense political importance to both the Congress and the AAP.

According to Congress sources, the party is not ready to give up the seat for the AAP. On the other hand, the AAP had announced its candidate for the seat long before the negotiations for seat-sharing even began between the two parties.

AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had, in December, chosen Dediapada in Bharuch to sound the poll bugle

and declared the name of party MLA Chaitar Vasava as the AAP's nominee from the constituency for the Lok Sabha elections.

As per AAP leaders, the Congress has failed to win back the constituency from the BJP for over three decades and hence, it does not have a strong claim over the seat.

The Congress is keen to contest from the seat and wrest it back from the BJP. The seat was once a Congress stronghold.

Tribal leader Mansukhbhai Vasava is the BJP's MP from the seat at present. Vasava has held the seat since 1998. Ahmed Patel was MP from Bharuch for three consecutive terms before the seat was won by the BJP in 1989.

He won the elections

from Bharuch for the first time in 1977, and went on to win in 1980 and 1984. After the elections in 1989, he entered the Rajya Sabha.

The political turnaround in Bharuch was seen as evidence of the BJP experimenting with Hindutva, finding success with it and establishing it in Gujarat and elsewhere. This makes it especially significant for the Congress to try and win the seat back from the BJP.

As the Congress seeks to reclaim Bharuch, there is speculation over whether Patel's daughter Mumtaz, who has, since her father's demise, been cultivating the constituency, would be fielded by the party from the seat. Her brother Faisal is also learnt to be keen to contest from Bharuch.

Congress stages protest against BJP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Gurmeet Singh, President Beopar Mandal & General Secretary JKPCC toured the Jammu City and heard the concerns of the residents and assured them he would take their issues, including the problem of and water shortage and urge the authorities and to look into their grievances.

The party expressed concern over the panic amongst the people due to lack of proper facilities and negligence on the part of the BJP/ J&K UT



Govt. Gurmeet Singh said despite repeated complaints regarding rectification to the BJP led JK UT Govt. of the root cause of this and appeals, no one has come forward to remedy this problem and we came to know about

the insufficient funds availability with the concerned PHE Department as the departmental administration have no powers/ rights to disperse money at their own and here BJP led administration total fails to provide them the required fund to avail

the quality equipments to get rid out of this persistent issue. I suggest that the concerned authorities should take up effective and immediate steps to find a solution to this very major problem.

Prominent among those who accompanied Gurmeet Singh include Ward No 3 President Hardavinder Singh, Mohd Ashraf, Neeraj Gupta, Vicky Kumar, Tarsam Lal, Nitan Gupta, Rajinder Kumar, Rashid Khan, Kamla Devi, Amarpreet Singh, Vijay Kumar, Raj Kumar and Apu Singh.

Crystal
Telecom - Security - Software

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES
CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

Ports	4 Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Plugable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Plugable Add on

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

EDITORIAL

STUDENTS
CONTRIBUTION

Students play an important role in any nation building, we can understand this from the word student only. Student is the person who does the work of acquiring knowledge, Vidya means education. Education is the power with the help of which a person is able to learn to take right decisions in difficult situations. Also one can learn about discipline and behavior.

After all, wisdom is not sold anywhere, the basis of this wisdom is education. The more education we have, the more we will be able to understand and talk about so many different types of things, which will enhance not only our personality but also our future.

The government understands this and that is why education is being given an important role. An educated person plays an important role in the development of the country because only an educated person can help in taking right decisions in different situations of the country and also the job and business done by him is successful which also benefits the country.

By looking at the history and present situation of our country, we can understand how important a role a student plays in nation building. The Constitution of our country today was written by some educated people, only then all people are able to get their rights.

If anything wrong happens in the country, law and order is made for it, only if it is done by an educated person, he is able to leave the country. From this we can understand how important education is and the person who receives education comes in the category of a student. Because of this, from history to present and future, a good student can take credit for building a good country. When a student acquires education and makes himself aware enough to understand his responsibility towards the country and fulfill it successfully, then it is his duty in this journey to acquire so much education that he can exercise his rights. To understand. Also to spread awareness about it in the society. Through education, one can gain so much understanding that one can help the government in stopping not only the practices taking place in one's own life but also in the society.

The duty of a student does not end here, it is believed that unless education benefits the individual and the country. Because of this, it is also the duty of a student to do a good business or job so that his family can get good facilities so that after that he can do something good for the society and this will ultimately be his role in taking the country forward.

Student life teaches us discipline and a new perspective.

It also tells us how something can be achieved by working hard, which we can use in our lives to make not only the country but also our lives successful. It is the duty of every student to protect the nation and contribute to its progress.

BJP, party in a hurry, puts allies at risk, not just Opposition

By: Sunil Gatade

The BJP is, of course, a party in a hurry. Not content with the tag of becoming the world's largest party, it still wants to spread far and wide in every nook and corner of the country. That too at breakneck speed. Like the late Dhirubhai Ambani's "Only Vimal" punchline for his textile brand, the world's largest democracy should have "Only BJP", or so goes the underlying understated argument.

This causes accidents, as happened in the Chandigarh mayoral election recently. The BJP won the controversial election, but the AAP and the Congress have alleged that it was rigged as eight of their votes had been declared invalid. The matter has gone to the Supreme Court, and the Chief Justice of India and other judges had some harsh things to say about the conduct of the returning officer. A hearing is coming up in the apex court later this month. The Opposition fears that if the BJP can go to such an extent in a mayoral election, what would it do in the Lok Sabha polls that is looming ahead. A tainted election has cast a shadow on the conduct of the Lok Sabha election. Trust goes for a toss when an election becomes tainted.

Interestingly, all accidents do not happen accidentally. Everything is fair in love, war and elections, or so goes the ruling party's belief ever since Narendra Modi emerged on the national scene a decade back.

A prominent Opposition party sought an appointment with the Election Commission on the EVM issue, but has yet to get time for the past four months. There are reports

that a state-owned undertaking which makes EVMs has four leaders from the BJP as directors.

The Prime Minister needs a third term almost as a right. The Opposition looks like a babe in the woods caught in a deep dark web. The BJP's "bulldozer" strategy is aimed at seeing itself entrenched in power even till 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of Independence. The pot is being kept boiling after the inauguration of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. The Gyanvapi Masjid is back in the news, and a puja is being allowed in some parts of it. The Uniform Civil Code issue is being hotted up in some BJP-ruled states, while the government says implementation of the controversial CAA will soon start. The PM will also inaugurate a temple in Abu Dhabi this month, which will be used as a booster to Ayodhya.

Despite the ED, CBI, I-T department and other investigative agencies working overtime, the likes of Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav and Arvind Kejriwal are busy protecting their turf, unconcerned or unaware about the big picture. Former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren's forced resignation, and arrest by the ED, has given quite a few anxious moments to the Opposition.

Whether true or false, Arvind Kejriwal claims he is being harassed for not joining the BJP bandwagon. The BJP's dream of total domination is sought to be realised by tightening the screws on non-BJP governments.

Those who never participated in the freedom struggle now feel it is child's play to "divide and rule" till eternity. It is a strange and chilling thought in a parliamentary

democracy.

The Centre has spent over Rs 1.5 crore on setting up photo booths at railway stations where the public can take selfies with images of Narendra Modi, apparently aimed at showing to the world that there is only one leader around when India is at the cusp of change.

The media, especially television, is bent on virtually ignoring the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, lest the message go out that an effort, however feeble, is on to build an alternative narrative.

At such a challenging time, Bihar, which has always stood with anti-establishment politics, has turned topsy-turvy. Known for its politically intense character, the state has now become the key base for the ruling establishment, with chief minister Nitish Kumar changing sides almost overnight. The Paltu Ram from Patna is poking fun at the Opposition, whose PM candidate he had sought to become not too long ago.

Mr Kumar, despite having the tag of the longest-serving Bihar CM, might go down in history as the slimiest character in socialist politics, who colluded with the ruling establishment when much was at stake for Indian democracy. His departure is a huge blow for the Opposition's INDIA bloc which, paradoxically, he had initially helped to establish.

Some claim that Mr Kumar, a loner, is unwell and that is affecting the health of Indian democracy. If true, that is a much deeper tragedy.

There is a method in the madness of what has happened in Maharashtra over a year back and still looks like a work in progress. Two regional parties in the state have

been split to allow greater leverage for the BJP in the state. The BJP's problem is that despite catapulting from No. 4 position to No. 1 in the wake of the emergence of Narendra Modi on the national scene in May 2014, it has failed to come to power on its own in the state. The "Hindu Hriday Samrat" from neighbouring Gujarat is unable to make deep inroads in Maharashtra, which has long remained Congress-minded.

Hence, the Shiv Sena, the oldest ideological ally of the BJP, is sought to be decimated, decapitated and demolished bit by bit through the rebellion of Eknath Shinde, now chief minister. The fault of Uddhav Thackeray was that instead of remaining a satellite in the Modi-led BJP, he tried the experiment of tying up with the Congress through Sharad Pawar. Both are now marked men for the BJP in Maharashtra and so the situation is becoming messier by the day.

Bihar, like Maharashtra, has been a difficult nut to crack for the BJP despite getting substantial numbers in the Lok Sabha in the past decade. The inability to throw up a state leader so far has brought the BJP to the door of Nitish Kumar over the past two decades. Mr Kumar and his party are at their lowest ebb since the last Assembly polls and therefore it is time for the BJP to make the most of the situation through the new arrangement in the Lok Sabha polls.

It has long been the BJP's dream to turn Bihar and Maharashtra like their neighbours Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The "Mumbai-Chandigarh via Patna Express" shows that the battle for dominance is intensifying every day.

The letter has come

By: Vijay Garg

(I definitely remember the days when the letter came)

After long days, while listening to a touching song that cherishes the memories of letters, my mind also started wandering in the world of letters after long days. Before the era of communication revolution, the world of letters was very prosperous. It was through letters that we used to get news about the happiness and sorrow of our family members, friends and well-wishers living far away. At that time, phone facility was available only in the homes of very rich people. mail us all was waiting for. The postman will come and bring the message. The newly married brides kept their ears glued to the main door of the house, eager to know the news of the happiness of their 'Pivji' sitting far away in Disawar, waiting to hear the call of the postman. Aged parents would wait for the postman with the hope of a money order with happy news of their earning son. In case of illness or illness, he would write a letter to his son, who had gone hundreds of kilometers away to earn money, asking him to come home early, then he would definitely write that 'Consider this letter as a telegram and leave immediately by the first train.' In the era of letters and letters, if a corner of a postcard got torn even by someone's mistake, then people would have been apprehensive that it would be a condolence news of someone's death, because at that time

it was the custom to send condolence news by tearing a corner of the postcard. Whenever a 'wire' arrived at someone's house, there would be a commotion in the entire neighborhood as to whether some untoward news would happen. At that time, anonymous postcards from such intimidating 'devotees' would also arrive every month or two, in which eleven or twenty one such postcards would be sent to other people, citing the miracles of some deity. There was an instruction to send the person and also a threat that if this was not done then there could be loss of life and property in the family and the business could be ruined. Fearful people used to write post cards out of fear of such instructions. The group of writers used to maintain friendly relations with the postman of their area. He kept waiting for the approval of his creations. On receiving the acceptance letter, he would show it to his writer friends for days, feeling proud and making them sad. Whenever any work was rejected and returned to the newspapers and magazines, a slip was attached. There used to be a feeling that we are not able to use this creation. Suggestions were also given to the writers. At that time, there was healthy communication between writers through letters. There was no formality in those letters, but a heartfelt feeling. In them, family matters were also shared and ideological issues were also discussed. The desire to read those handwritten letters again and again remains

in the mind. Even today, there is a feeling of energy and warmth among the literature-loving new writers and others while reading the letters received from many famous litterateurs and personalities. Communication takes place. From the letters of writers we also get to know their mental state, we get acquainted with their feelings and thoughts as well as their personality. Actually, letters and literature are our literary heritage. The letters of many veteran litterateurs of Hindi along with other languages introduce us to the contemporary times and society and fill us with the fragrance of mutual relationships. The correspondence and debates between many self-respecting literatures and ideas have been presented to us through letters and have been presented to us through many collections. And we have been made to realize how lively the relationships used to be between the writers at that time. Now the medium of mutual communication has been replaced by letters, WhatsApp, messenger, e-mail etc. There is certainly a facility for instant communication through communication mediums with any person sitting anywhere in the country or abroad, but in this communication there is generally more of a sense of formality and the feeling of intimate joy is less. She seemed to be talking while reading handwritten letters. At that time, words in letters were carefully arranged and written and that handwriting was hypnotizing. Where is that

joy now? The tradition of sending honorarium to writers by post by newspapers and magazines has almost vanished, yet if honorarium is paid somewhere after the work is published, it is deposited directly into the bank account. Certainly, this is a modern day facility which seems to be easy for the giver and taker of remuneration and now people are becoming comfortable with it. But earlier when he used to receive a check along with the letter, the writer used to read the check with excitement. Now such exciting moments are becoming rare. modern and fast life, the memories of handwritten letters on paper can be seen as an outdated sentiment today, but it is also necessary to remember that our path to reach here has been the same. After all, why is it that among us humans immersed in the modern resources of the communication revolution, the element of sensitivity seems to be secondary? We become happy and sad, but equally rapidly we also start going through periods of turmoil. What is the reason for such instability, where can it be traced? Earlier letters would come every day. Now, even after a long time, letters do not come; I definitely remember those days.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist MALOUT
Punjab)

Army organises Medical Camp at Balnoi in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation

Top News Report

MENDHAR, Feb 9: Balnoi Battalion of the Indian Army in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation, Diva International Foundation conducted a Free Medical Camp at Balnoi Base, Sub Division Mendhar, Tehsil - Mankote, District Poonch.

The main aim of conducting this medical camp was to provide essential health care services to the villagers in the Area of responsibility in Balnoi Battalion.

The People's Hut Foundation headed by Dr. Rohit Koul is a national level registered NGO registered with Govt of India & Niti Aayog brought together a team of dedicated health care professionals who volunteered to



offer medical consultations, check-ups and treatment.

The camp was organised under the overall supervision of Dr. A.D Singh, Chairman Diva Group. The medical camp themed "Mobile Health Clinic Program" saw an overwhelming participation from villages of Mankote Block.

In addition to medical consultation, the camp also provided free Ayush medicines, basic health screening and awareness about hygiene, nutrition and preventive care.

Medical Camp catered to all the villages of Mendhar including villages of Balnoi, Dabraj, Sagra, Ghani and

Mankote which are located close to the Line of Control and therefore lacks basic medical facilities.

Allopathic medicines were sponsored by Vishal, Owner and Director of Lifeline Health Care Jammu, Diagnostic Services were provided by New Max Diagnostics

Poonch and Ayush Medicines were provided by the Directorate of Ayush J&K U.T through Director Ayush J&K Dr. Mohan Singh.

Medical camp was successfully carried out under the guidance of the Commanding Officer of the Balnoi Battalion Col. Ashwani Kumar Pandita.

The village elders and Ex- Servicemen of the area of responsibility conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army and People's Hut Foundation for organising the medical camp.

The volunteers of People's Hut Foundation, Diva International Foundation, Medical staff and other doctors were felicitated by Brigadier Ramesh Krishnan, (Sena Medal) Commander, Krishna Ghati Brigade.

SSP Kishtwar holds introductory meeting with Media fraternity



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 9: The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom on Friday convened an introductory meeting with the media fraternity of Kishtwar district.

The meeting, which took place in the office chamber of SSP Kishtwar, saw the participation of media persons associated with various print and electronic media outlets.

During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion was conducted on several pertinent issues of public importance, misuse of social media, ethics of media persons and difficulties faced by media persons on day-to-day basis were raised with a collective call for further fortifying the relationship between the police and media.

SSP Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom reassured the media persons that all issues raised during the meeting would be

promptly addressed.

He also extended an invitation for feedback from the media fraternity regarding working of police in the district, aiming to enhance police efficiency and improve the public service delivery system.

Emphasizing the importance of upholding law of land, SSP Kishtwar* reiterated that stringent measures would be taken against individuals found violating the law in any sphere of activity. This commitment underscores the authorities' dedication for maintaining public order and ensuring the safety and security of the residents of Kishtwar district.

The meeting served as a platform for constructive dialogue and collaboration between the police and the media, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation in the pursuit of shared objectives for the welfare of the community.

NSS SMVDU volunteers participate in National Adventure Camp at Pong Dam

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 9: NSS SMVDU, Katra volunteers participated in 10-day National Adventure camp at Pong Dam (Kangra).

The camp was organized by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), Kangra.

The camp was funded by the Regional Directorate, NSS New Delhi.

A total of 45 participants, including four from SMVDU, embarked on water activities.

The camp focused



on enhancing Swimming skills, covering aspects like, Boating, Rafting, Sailing, Swimming, kayaking and river crossing.

Beyond physical

challenges, the camp aimed to develop social awareness and leadership skills. The success of the event was credited to ABVIMAS' expertise and the vol-

unteers' enthusiasm, showcasing teamwork and camaraderie.

The NSS volunteers that participated in the camp were Chetan Gupta, Priyanka Sharma, Shatakshi Tewari, Astabhujanath Pandey.

NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep congratulated the volunteers for successfully completing the National camp.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragti Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and congratulated them for bringing laurels to the University.

Congress condemns Habbakadal attack, demands strict action against Pakistan

Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 9: Congress District Samba President, Sanjeev Sharma has strongly condemned the Habbakadal terrorist attack in which two non-locals from the minority community were killed.

Sanjeev expressed condolences to the families of Amritpal Singh and Rohit who were martyred in the terrorist attack.

Sanjeev said that the minority community in Jammu and Kashmir is facing continuous attacks at the hands of Pakistan sponsored terrorists and the government has failed to ensure the security of the minority community.

He said that despite making tall claims, BJP has failed to ensure the security of minorities in the valley.



Sanjeev said that the government should take concrete steps to ensure the safety of minorities

in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sanjeev said that terrorists supported by Pakistan are raising their heads again and again and there is a need to deal with them strictly.

Sanjeev said that Pakistan has not improved its way till date and it is making every possible effort to disturb the peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sanjeev said that BJP leaders only give strong condemnation but they have no answer to give to the families of those who are continuously losing their lives.

He said that on one hand BJP claims peace in the valley and on the other hand terrorists are continuously targeting people due to which the false peace of BJP in the valley is coming in front of everyone.

BLSKS celebrates Mauni Amavasya with enthusiasm

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: To observed the Mauni Amavasya 2024 to promote the Traditional Duggar Culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) presented its 402th Friday Series Musical Play "Shiv Mahima" cultural awareness program in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art production at Juggi Jompadi, Shant Nagar Jammu.

This play was written, produced, & directed by Dr. M.L.Dogra. The program was inaugurated by V.K Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India.

The Guest of Honor were J.K Raina, freelancer Producer, Director Films, Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra, Directorate of Health J&K Government, Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director, Health Department, Mukesh Singh, Media Person Jammu present on the occasion.

The programme was commenced with song of "Laga Gran Sare Sehtu Da Mela", "Jai Jai Ganage", "Ganga Tera Pani Amrit" & dances also presented songs sung by the renowned artists of BLSKS and music of the play composed by Raju Bajgal,



Music Instructor, BLSKS.

The musical play, dances and skits presented were highly appreciated by the audience and dignitaries. The Chief Guest Maghi Amavasya, or Mauni Amavasya, is an important Hindu occasion dedicated to honouring ancestors and predecessors.

This Amavasya falls in the month of Magha, which is characterized by the disappearance of the moon from the sky.

On this day, people worship Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva in addition to their ancestors and predecessors. To commemorate Mauni Amavasya, devotees perform a series of rituals and maintain a Mauni Vrat.

They perform Pitru Dosha puja, offer Arghya to Lord Surya and take a holy dip in the Ganga. Donations, charity and organizing

Pujas are considered to be meritorious. This is the time to seek serenity and tranquility in life and to perform rituals for the Pitru Dosha.

The songs on the theme were also presented and upload online on Social Media for benefit of the people.

Earlier, welcome speech of Dr. M.L.Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) who highlighted the event i.e. Hindus attach immense religious and spiritual importance to Mauni Amavasya.

Amavasya is respected for performing all Puja rituals, including Hawan, Pitru Dosha Puja and even Pind Daan, if people so wish, in memory of their ancestors or predecessors. However, it is not considered auspicious to perform all events such as marriage, engagement, Mundan and Griha Praves.

The name "Mauni" means silence, and the day of Mauni Amavasya is dedicated to the practice of silence. On this day, devotees take a Sankalp of silence (mauna vrata) to experience spiritual elevation. In observance of Mauni Amavasya, devotees make a daily vow to remain silent. It is also believed that Mauni Amavasya is a very auspicious day to take a holy dip or 'Snana' in a holy river, especially the Ganga and Devak River at Udhampur, Purnamandal, Utter behani Jammu.

Take a holy dip and get up early to start the day. Visit places of worship and take a holy dip in the Ganga if you can. Light a diya with desi ghee in honour of your ancestors and forefathers. Perform Pitru Tarpan and Pitru Puja, as it is considered to be auspicious. Practice auspicious practices

such as reading the Bhagavad Gita, Hawan and Gayatri Jaap. It is considered virtuous to feed and donate to Brahmins. Plan a Gayatri Jaap to help the family deal with Pitru Dosha. It is advisable to perform a Kaal Sarpa Dosha puja for people affected by this dosha to counteract its malignant effects. Devotees must also feed crows, dogs, ants and cows.

M.C Kotwal, Secretary BLSKS also explained aims & objectives of the programme which have been assigned to the Sansthan for betterment of society in his key note address highlighted the various aspects of play which has been produced in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and State Government of Jammu and Kashmir with Health department for mass awareness.

All the renowned artists and students took a solemn pledge on the occasion to eradicate social evils & to foster National unity.

The singers, musician, actors and students of music and computer institute who performed in the musical concert were Usha Raina, Rajni Gupta, Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi, Bindia Okheda, Rajeev Salotra, Kuldeep Raj, and many others presented the enthralled performance.

Capsule Training Course for PSOs concludes at PTTI Vijaypur

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Feb 9: 10 days Capsule Training Course for PSOs concluded at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur today.

The objective of the course was to enhance the capabilities and tactics of police officials to protect VIPs/protected persons.

On this occasion a Valedictory function was organized which

was graced by Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal PTTI Vijaypur who while speaking on the occasion said that these trainees have been trained in Crises management, Reaction Drill, Evacuation, Anti ambush techniques, Tactical position taking and medical contingency which would definitely help them while performing their field duties with VIPs/ Protected persons. The

officer further told that during course the trainees were put on strenuous outdoor activities to make them physically fit with a motive to keep them mentally alert in tough situation. Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor), Surrinder Paul Singh (Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech), Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Pawan Anand, ASI Naresh Kumar were present during valedictory function.

JKBS distributes Guru Gyagi birthday invitations

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Feb 9: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members on Friday toured various villages of R S Pura and Bishnah Tehsils and distributed invitations for Guru Gyagi birthday among the community people.

Members urged them to actively participate in the celebrations along with their families and seek blessings of the Guru.

Villages that were visited include Gegian, Chohala, Dablehar, Jindarh Kalan, Mellu, Rathana Deoli, Vyaspur Parlah, Mallowal, Findarh, Kotli Mian Fateh,



Chak Tara and Makhan Pur Laswara.

Prominent among those with whom the members met were Retired DySP Harbans Lal Mandi, Hony Captain Behari Lal Sandhu, Ex Sarpanch Joginder Singh Bassa, Ex Sarpanch Ashok Kumar Kaith, Jagdish, Krishan Lal Sandhu, Dar-

shan Lal Mandi, Rashpal Lal Loria, Jatinder Mandi, Ashok Singh Loria, Bans Lal Bassa, Hakikat Anmol, Balrah Mandi and Soma Devi. JKBS members included Messrs Ex Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, Master Sat Pal, Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

On the 83rd birth anniversary of ghazal king Jagjit Singh, celebs pay tributes

Jagjit Singh's timeless melodies have left an indelible mark on the hearts of music enthusiasts. The passion and devotion with which he sang brought life to music and how! As we celebrate the 83rd birth anniversary of the legendary ghazal maestro, singers from Punjab, both veteran and contemporary, pay tribute to the enduring legacy of Jagjit Singh.

Seeker of music
Hans Raj Hans, folk and Sufi singer

Hazaaron saal Nargis apni be-noori pe roti hai, badi mushkil se hota hai chaman mein Didawar paida — this couplet by Allama Iqbal fittingly encapsulated the persona of Jagjit Singh. He was a limitless singer and person; a seeker of music. He devoted his entire life to riyaz, even in his final days. He did a lot of hard work to transform his voice. They say you truly get to know someone by either travelling or eating with them. I've had the privilege of both with Jagjit Singh. We were together for three months for a reality show. And that time



spent in close proximity of Jagjit Singh makes me say that he was destined to be singer, an artiste of unparalleled uniqueness. He was one-of-a-kind, not just as a musician but also as a person. He played the role of an elder brother, a father figure in my life. He would advise me to save money, showed me how to channelize time. When he was working on a devotional album,

Guru Maneyo Granth, he asked me to sing Baba Farid's track with him and that experience is etched in my memory.

Broad spectrum
Vinod Sehgal, disciple of Jagjit Singh

The musical virtuosity of the legend can be measured by the spectrum of his work and his contribution to music. If connoisseurs of Hindustani classical

music cherish his compositions in Raag Darbari, Lalit, Bihag, Bhairavi and more, on the one hand, the lovers of ghazal consider his interpretation of Mirza Ghalib as superb.

True maestro
Kanwar Grewal, Punjabi Sufi singer

Jagjit Singh put soul into ghazals with his melodious voice. His style of singing made him a world-renowned figure. He was a maestro who touched the souls of music lovers across the world. I used to listen to his songs often. He will be forever be missed by music lovers.

True inspiration
Rashmeet Kaur, singer-songwriter

Jagjit Singh is one of the purest artistes of all time. I grew up listening to him; he is a legend who put life into words. He is immortal and has an irreplaceable voice. He has been an inspiration to many in the industry, including me during my growing up years. I have so many favourites. Koi Fariyad would be on the top of the list for me.

Camila Mendes talks about the rom-com Upgraded



After becoming a household name with her popular role in River-

dale, actress Camila Mendes is all set to bowl fans over with her much-

loved swoony charm.

Playing Ana Santos, a broke but ambitious art curator intern from New York, Mendes will be seen in the upcoming Amazon Original movie Upgraded. The film takes viewers alongside the streets of London in this romantic comedy, where mistaken identities and luck-filled meet-cutes will steal their hearts this Valentine's season.

Mendes, who also dons the hat of an executive producer for the film, felt an instant connection to Ana Santos and was excited to be fully involved in developing her character arc and the story. "What I love most about starring in projects I also get to produce, is having more authority to weigh in on creative choices," says Mendes. Directed by Carlson Young, the film is slated to premiere on Prime Video today.

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour to stream on OTT



Good news for all the Swifties! After getting a massive response at the theatres, pop sensation Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour (Taylor's Version) is all set to begin its OTT journey.

The concert film will stream on OTT platform Disney+ and will include

five songs that were not available in the theatrical or digital versions, according to reports.

Taking to Instagram, Taylor shared a post which she captioned, "This week is truly the best kind of chaos. I'm thrilled to let you know I've found a streaming

home for The Eras Tour Concert film, and that home will be @disneyplus. For the first time we'll be showing the entire concert (including "Cardigan", plus 4 additional songs from the acoustic section!)."

The newly expanded version of The Eras Tour will hit Disney+ worldwide on March 15. Among the bonus songs included on the streamer will be Cardigan, from Swift's 2020 album Folklore.

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour pulled in \$261.7 million at the global box office after its October 13 wide theatrical debut — making it the highest-grossing concert film to date.

The film was shot at the first three LA shows of the superstar's Eras tour from August 3-5, 2023, and clocked in with a 2-hour-and-45-minute runtime, which meant five songs from the regular setlist were omitted.

Meanwhile, Taylor Swift recently announced her new album The Tortured Poets Department, which will be out on April 19.

Not everything you see on reels and YouTube is real, says Adaa Khan



Adaa Khan says that while reels and YouTube are clearly the future of entertainment, they don't necessarily showcase authentic content. "The future of entertainment seems to include platforms like reels and YouTube, but it's not the only future. TV and movies are still important. Yes, these platforms will likely be more important in the future. They let more people share their talents, but it's still about having good content," she says.

Emma Watson's luxury car towed away during night out at bar

While out at a bar with her mother, actress Emma Watson had her blue luxurious Audi towed away after it blocked in a pizza restaurant manager's vehicle for nearly four hours.

A witness said the actress had blocked the entrance to a car park, leaving the owner of a pizza restaurant across the street having his car blocked in by the actress' vehicle.

The manager told MailOnline: "Three-and-a-half hours of searching for the driver was the last thing I needed after working a 12-hour shift. The car was parked in front of our gate which is a no-parking zone." Watson was said to have parked it illegally on a quiet street before she nipped into a nearby pub, the Rose and Crown, with her mum Jacqueline, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

When the pizza restaurant owner called the police and they started to tow away her car, the manager said Watson came "flying out of the pub shouting, that's my car, that's my car."

The actress was photographed wearing a



long black trench coat while apparently begging cops and a tow truck employee to leave her car alone.

But it was taken away leaving the star facing

an over Rs 20,000 (£192) charge to get her Audi S3 back. She is also being charged over Rs 2,000 (£26) per day as it waits at the car pound.

Diljit Dosanjh to enthrall audience in Coke Studio Bharat Season 2 with his song Magic

The line-up for the second season of Coke Studio Bharat has been announced and music aficionados are definitely in for a treat.

As per a statement, singers like Diljit Dosanjh, Shreya Ghoshal, Neha Kakkar, Digvijay Singh, Kanishk Seth, Cyli Khare and MC Square will feature in the second season.

Ankur Tewari, musician, shared his thoughts on the upcoming second season of Coke Studio Bharat, "As we embark on the second season of Coke Studio Bharat after a fantastic first run, let the music speak, weaving together the rich threads of our cultural mosaic. Get ready for another season filled with soulful tunes and vibrant melodies. In the vast realm of music, the



fusion of diverse tunes becomes a grand cele-

bration of emotions and cultures. My association

with Coke Studio Bharat has been enriching and has brought me profound joy, as it unfolds as a dynamic arena where a multitude of musical threads interweave, crafting a symphony that resonates with the intricate hues of our collective human narrative."

The first song of the season will be Magic by Diljit. The track will go live today.

In the 30-second teaser, Diljit is seen donning an oversized black shirt and a bright red turban as he matches steps with members of The Quick Style, who rose to fame after recreating hook-steps of popular Bollywood songs such as Sadi Galli from the film Tanu Weds Manu and Kala Chashma.

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has taken a step forward in advocacy for creating a safe digital space for everybody, especially children

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has taken a step forward in advocacy for creating a safe digital space for everybody, especially children.

"The internet is a powerful tool, and we need to ensure that children can make the best use of it. They can use the internet to learn about the world, discover new hobbies, advance their skills, explore job opportunities, and harness its potential safely and securely," he said in a statement.

"The rise of smartphones and social media has led to an increase in online trolling, which often adversely affects children's mental health and self-esteem. It is important that we educate and



sensitize our children on ways to maintain online hygiene — to not only stay protected from trolling and bullying but to also refrain from being an online troll/bully. It is of utmost importance to ensure that our children are empowered enough

to approach their trusted adult whether it's a parent, family member or teacher if they are being trolled online" the actor said.

Ayushmann also shared his views on how parents should deal with children in the digi-

tal age. "Children are taking to the internet from a very formative stage in their lives. From education to friendships to entertainment, every aspect of their lives has an online component. As elders, it is our responsibility to build trust with our children — trust which is a two-way street where the children trust the adults/guardians enough to turn to them when they need support and for the adults/guardians to trust the children when they turn to them. In the long term though as elders/parents, we have to approach these issues with patience, trust and intent. If required, we should seek professional help for children, without the fear of stigma," he said.

UPA put family first during 2008 global financial crisis, sent economy nosediving: Sitharaman

'The party which could not handle global financial crisis is now giving lecture to Modi Government'

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday tore into UPA accusing it of economic mismanagement during the 2008 global financial crisis, saying the Congress put the "first family first" and brought the economy down to 'fragile five.'

Initiating the debate on the 'White Paper on Indian Economy and its impact on the lives of people of India', Sitharaman said the Common Wealth Games (CWG), held during the UPA regime, brought "bad name" to the country, but India's G20 presidency under the Narendra Modi Government earned India global respect. Substitute motions were moved by Opposition members Saugata Roy (TMC) and NK Premchandran disapproving the White Paper. Sitharaman said the Modi gov-



ernment worked with sincerity and pulled the economy out of 'fragile five' and sent it to top five globally. It is now on the verge of becoming one of the top three global economies, she said.

"Ten years of one government with some crisis and 10 years of a different government with different crisis. The compar-

son shown in this 'White Paper' clearly says how if the government handles it with true sincerity, transparency and putting the nation first, the results are there for everybody to see," Sitharaman said.

She added, "When you don't put the nation first, when you put your first family first, and when you have other consid-

eration than transparency, the results are out there for you to see. So what happened after 2008 when there was a global financial crisis and what happened post-COVID shows clearly that if the intent of the government is sincere results will be good."

Sitharaman said the Modi Government handled the much more "deadly" Covid crisis with sincerity and dedication, unlike UPA in 2008, which did not have "clean" intention.

The party which could not handle the global financial crisis and continued with corruption and scandal is now giving lecture to the Modi Government, the minister said, amid shouting by Opposition members.

If you have the courage, you should not interrupt my speech and instead give a reply, Sitharaman told them.

"Detailed Probe Will Be Done": Ajit Pawar On Team Thackeray Leader's Murder



PUNE, Feb 9 (Agencies): Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday described the murder of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Abhishek Ghosalkar during a 'Facebook Live' as "wrong and unfortunate" and assured that a detailed probe will be conducted to find out what led to the crime.

A viral video of the incident, which took place at assailant Mauris Noronha's office in IC Colony in the northern suburb of Borivali (West) on Thursday evening, showed Ghosalkar being shot in the abdomen and shoulder. Within moments, Noronha also killed himself.

The probe has been handed over to the Mumbai Crime Branch. "It was wrong and unfortunate. Such incidents should not happen in the state. The conversation between the two during the live-streaming seemed friendly. Looking at the conversation, their relationship also looked cordial," Pawar told reporters in Pune.

"A detailed investigation needs to be done

about what exactly had happened between them," he said.

Abhishek (40), son of former MLA Vinod Ghosalkar, a loyalist of the Uddhav Thackeray-led party, was also a former corporator. The fatal attack on him came days after a BJP MLA was caught on camera firing at a leader of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena inside a police station at Ulhasnagar.

Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has demanded Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnis' resignation over Ghosalkar's murder.

Pawar said the opposition is making an issue out of the incident, trying to defame the government and demanding the resignation of the home minister.

"They have got a chance (to target the government) now. But the background of the incident needs to be probed. It needs to be checked what exactly had happened (between them) in the past," he said.

Pawar said that Chief Minister and deputy CM Fadnis have taken

cognisance of the incident.

Asked about Mumbai Congress leader Baba Siddique's move to NCP, Pawar said he would join the party on Saturday evening.

"On February 11 (Saturday), some more people will be joining NCP. We are urging everyone to join NCP as the Election Commission of India has given its verdict in terms of the party name and symbol," he said.

The poll commission recently held that the faction led by Ajit Pawar is the real NCP and it is entitled to use the party's name and 'clock' symbol.

Ajit Pawar also responded to a question about workers from the Sharad Pawar faction damaging a board bearing his name outside the NCP office in Pune.

Referring to the then undivided NCP's Pune unit chief Prashant Jagtap, who is now with the Sharad Pawar group, Ajit Pawar said he made the former the mayor of the city. When nobody supported Jagtap in the party, Pawar said he took the lead in making the NCP leader their city unit president.

"He (Jagtap) has resigned as party unit president. He had tendered his resignation accusing people in the party of harassing him. I did not accept the resignation then. We had counselled him," he said.

India Has Nearly 97 Crore Voters Now, Says Poll Body

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): The Election Commission on Friday said nearly 97 crore Indians will be eligible to vote in this year's Lok Sabha elections.

It also said over two crore young electors in age group of 18 to 29 years have been added in the voters' list.

There has been a six per cent increase

in registered voters from 2019, when the last Lok Sabha polls were held. "The largest electorate in the world -- 96.88 crore are registered to vote for the forthcoming General Elections in India," the EC said.

The gender ratio has increased from 940 in 2023 to 948 in 2024, the poll panel said. The Commission has put special emphasis

on purity and health of the electoral roll along with disclosures and transparency in the revision of electoral rolls, an official pointed out.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had explained at a press conference in Pune the various tasks involved in revision of electoral rolls along with participation of political parties at every stage.

Uttarakhand Official Says Rioters Trying To "Terrorise Area", Cops On Alert

HALDWANI, Feb 9 (Agencies): Violence in Uttarakhand's Haldwani while officials were demolishing an illegal mosque and madrasa resulted in the deaths of 4 people. The clash led to injuries to over 50 policemen, with several administration officials, municipal workers, and journalists also caught in the crossfire. Shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in Haldwani and internet services completely shut down in a bid to control rioters.

Describing the gravity of the situation, Nainital District Magistrate said that rioters threw petrol bombs at a police station, and also set vehicles on fire.

"The demolition drive started peacefully, the force was deployed for prevention. Stones were pelted on our Municipal Corporation's team. It was planned that the day the demolition drive will be conducted the forces would be attacked," Vandana Singh said.

"The first mob with stones were dispersed and the second mob that came in had petrol bombs. This was unprovoked

and our team did not use any force," she added.

She said that the rioting mob used "maximum force" while attacking the police station.

"Efforts were made (by the mob) to terrorise the area. Our priority was to protect the police station and then ensure that no loss of life or property occurred in Gandhi Nagar," Ms Singh said.

The madrasa and mosque had been declared illegal by the administration, leading to their demolition. Ms Singh emphasised that the demolition drive was taken in compliance with the High Court's orders, and notices were issued to all parties involved.

"After the High Court's orders, actions against encroachments were taken in various places in Haldwani. A task force has been formed at the district level to remove illegal encroachments on other government lands," she said.

The official said that due process was followed, notices were issued to all concerned parties, and a hearing committee was



formed to ensure a fair evaluation of each case.

However, some individuals resorted to violence, attempting to breach the High Court's doors.

As the bulldozer razed the structures, enraged residents, including women, took to the streets in protest. As they broke barricades and clashed with the police, the situation escalated rapidly. Mobs then hurled stones at cops, municipal workers, and journalists, resulting in injuries and property damage. More than 20 motorcycles and a security bus were set ablaze.

The DM emphasized that the police force exercised maximum restraint and did not provoke or harm anyone. Tear gas and water cannons were only used to safeguard the police station. The primary goal was to protect public safety and prevent loss of life or property.

While the situation remains tense, authorities are actively working to restore order in Haldwani. The demolition drive, aimed at removing illegal encroachments, will continue as part of the ongoing efforts to safeguard government properties across the region.

Telangana man kills girlfriend with axe after she opts for arranged marriage

HYDERABAD, Feb 9 (Agencies): A man allegedly killed his girlfriend with an axe as she started avoiding him after her family planned for her arranged marriage. The woman's sister, who was with her during the attack, was also injured in the incident that took place in Khanapur town in Telangana's Nirmal district.

The woman, Alekhya, was coming with her sister from a tailoring institute around 1.30 pm on Thursday when her boyfriend, Jukanti Srikanth, attacked her with an axe.

Alekhya died on the spot while her sister sustained injuries. Srikanth fled the scene after the attack and is currently on the run.



The duo were in a relationship, but Alekhya had started avoiding Jukanti after her family planned for her arranged marriage.

A case has been registered. A search is on to trace the accused and further investigation is underway, police today.

Odisha man arrested for raping, uploading obscene photos of daughter's friend

JAJPUR, Feb 9 (Agencies): Police arrested a 54-year-old man in Odisha's Jajpur district for allegedly raping his daughter's friend and uploading her obscene photos after she refused to have physical relationship with him, a police officer said on Friday.

According to the complaint filed by the victim at Panikoi police station, the accused happens to be the father of her friend. The accused was known her as she had visited her friend's house many times.

"I had gone to my friend's house to meet her last year. When I reached there, my friend and her mother were not at home. When I inquired about my friend, her father who was alone in the house



told me she had gone outside and would return after some time, so I waited in the house to meet her. Taking advantage of the situation he sexually assaulted me", the victim stated in her complaint.

However, she did not reveal it to her friend or anybody else as the accused apologised for the incident. The victim said the accused raped her again when she was

in her relative's house in Cuttack a couple of months back. He also filmed the act on his mobile phone, she stated in her complaint. The accused then threatened to make the photos of their intimate moments viral if she did not continue the physical relationship, as per the complaint.

Meanwhile, the marriage of the victim was finalised to a youth in

the area. The accused came to know about the marriage and asked her to continue the relationship but the woman refused to have a relationship with him as her marriage was already finalised.

The accused then posted her obscene photos on social media last week.

The victim filed a complaint after learning from her friends about her obscene photos posted on social media on Tuesday, said Lizarani Biswal, inspector-in-charge (IIC), Panikoi police station.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case under the relevant sections of the IPC and IT Act and arrested the accused, the IIC said.

BJP demands action against clearance of Rs 16,683 crore Budget in Delhi Assembly



NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): A delegation of the Delhi BJP unit submitted a memorandum today to the office of Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, Vinay Kumar Saxena, demanding action against the illegal passage of the Budget in the Delhi Municipal Corporation by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House on Tuesday passed a Budget with proposals for expenditure of Rs 16,683 crore for 2024-25 amid a ruckus as Opposition BJP councillors accused Mayor Shelly Oberoi of

corruption. The chaos continued during the Budget's second representation on Thursday.

The BJP delegation which submitted the complaint before L-G Saxena included opposition leader Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh, along with councillors Shikha Ray and Yogesh Varma.

Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh stated the clearance of the Budget in the Delhi Assembly was a blatant attack on democracy that is underway within the Delhi Municipal Corporation. Mayor Shaili Oberoi passed a proposal from the house,

increasing the financial power by up to Rs 10 crore without discussion, ultimately approving a budget of Rs 1500 crore.

Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh emphasised that no municipality in the country grants the mayor such a power allocation of 1500 crore rupees. While constitutional committees, whether standing, education, or ward committees, hold their power, the Mayor has committed an attack on democracy, which the BJP strongly opposes.

BJP's Shikha Ray said, "In a democracy, no individual is given absolute power. Yet today, within the Assembly, the Mayor behaved as if they didn't feel the need to discuss with the opposition and passed the budget without any discussion, which we oppose."

Yogesh Varma stated that a conspiracy of embezzlement of Rs 1500 crore annually by the Aam Aadmi Party was devised and illegally passed in the Delhi Assembly. We have lodged a complaint with the Lieutenant Governor regarding these matters, action on which will be taken soon.

Imran Khan's party claims victory in Pakistan's General Election; Nawaz Sharif's PML-N makes counterclaim

A party must win 133 seats out of 265 being contested to form the next government

ISLAMABAD, Feb 9 (Agencies): Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on Friday claimed victory in the General Election while alleging that results were being delayed to rig the outcome.

In a statement, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party also asked PML-N's supreme leader Nawaz Sharif, who was the favourite to win as he was backed by the powerful Army, to concede defeat.

The PML-N, however, rejected the demand and claimed that it was winning Thursday's elections.

Votes are still being counted in Pakistan after Thursday's General Election which was marred by allegations of rigging, sporadic violence and a country-wide mobile phone shutdown.

There were dozens of parties in the fray but the main contest was among Khan's PTI, whose candidates are running as independents, former three-time premier Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Bilawal Zardari Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

In a statement on X from the PTI official handle, the party stated that it won more than 150 NA seats out of 265 open for contest as per the data received in Form 45s, which are the primary source of election results at the lowest level and show the



votes for each candidate at each polling station.

A party must win 133 seats out of 265 being contested to form the next government.

"Copies of these forms have been collected by PTI candidates' polling agents, which show them winning by a large majority. According to independent reports, PTI has won well over 150 National Assembly seats & is in a solid position to form government in Federal, Punjab & KP (Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa), with a clear majority," it stated.

"However, manipulation of the results in the late hours of the night is an utter disgrace & a brazen theft of the nation's man-

date. The people of Pakistan vehemently reject the rigged results. The world is watching," it asserted.

In another statement, PTI alleged that its mandate was being stolen.

"Let the world know that the clear and overwhelming mandate of the people of Pakistan is being stolen. Despite unprecedented pre-poll rigging & oppression, there was a record, massive turnout on polling day," it stated. The party said that every independent candidate backed by it was winning by a landslide.

It also said that Returning Officers are now manipulating the results using Form 47, which

is a summary of Form 45 from each polling station.

"Furthermore, there are reports of the polling agents getting abducted & forced to sign fake Form 45s," it said.

It also referred to unspecified reports to claim that "PTI nominated candidates (were) losing suddenly in various constituencies now, after they had already won by a clear majority".

In another statement, the party asked Sharif to concede defeat.

"Show some grace @NawazSharifMNS, accept the defeat! The people of Pakistan will never accept you. This is a golden opportunity to regain some credibility as a Democrat. Daylight robbery is going to be rejected massively by Pakistan!" it said in a statement on X.

PML-N has countered the PTI claim about results and said that it was winning.

"Based on data compiled in PMLN Election Cell and results already in the public domain, PMLN has emerged as the single largest political party in the National Assembly and a clear majority party in Punjab Assembly," according to party leader Ishaq Dar.

He also said that "pre-mature and biased speculations" must be avoided as the country awaits the official complete results from ECP.

Putin accuses West of 'prolonging Ukraine conflict', urges US to halt arms supply



MOSCOW, Feb 9 (Agencies): In his first media interview ever since the Russia-Ukraine war broke out, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States and other Western countries of prolonging the war. He also said the US needed to stop supplying weapons to Ukraine.

During a conversation with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, Putin claimed peace talks with Ukraine were almost on the finish line, when President Volodymyr Zelenskyy began obeying the instructions from the West.

The interview was aired on 'Tucker Carlson Tonight', a streaming service that Carlson launched in December 2023. Notably, Carlson was fired by Fox News in April 2023, for getting 'too big for his boots', a book claimed.

"Ukraine threw away all these agreements and obeyed the instructions of Western countries, European countries, and the United States to fight Russia to the bitter end," Putin told Carlson.

Though the Kremlin, in December last year, said that engaging in peace talks with Ukraine was 'unrealistic', Putin claimed Russia still speaks with the US 'through various agencies' about ending the war.

"If you really want to stop fighting, you need to stop supplying weapons. It will be over within a few weeks," Putin said, in a message to the United States.

Recalling his last conversation with Joe Biden, before Russia invaded Ukraine, Putin said, "I said to him, then, I believe that you are making a huge mistake of historic proportions by supporting everything that is happening there, in Ukraine, by pushing Russia away."

The Russian President also particularly blamed former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was forced out of the UK Parliament in June 2023, and said Johnson had dissuaded Zelenskyy from signing a peace deal in the early stages of the conflict.

"The fact that they (Ukraine) obey the demand or persuasion of Mr Johnson, the former prime minister of Great Britain, seems ridiculous," Putin said.

Putin also spoke about the Central Intelligence Agency - the civilian foreign intelligence service of the United States, revealing Carlson wanted to join the agency.

"The CIA, the organisation you wanted to join back in the day, as I understand," Putin told Carlson, adding, "We should thank God they did not let you in."

"Although it is a serious organisation, I understand," Putin remarked.

The entire interview was shared on X by Tucker Carlson, who has frequently criticised US support for Ukraine, and has referred to Zelenskyy as a 'Ukrainian pimp' and 'rat-like'.

Ahead of the interview, Carlson said he was driven to speak to Putin because the Americans had "no idea why Putin invaded Ukraine or what his goals are now".

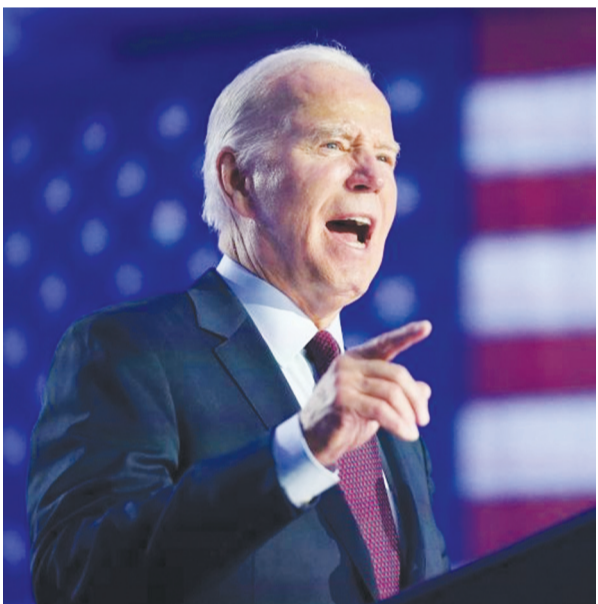
'My memory is fine': Joe Biden hits back at special counsel over 'hazy' and 'poor' age jibe

WASHINGTON, Feb 9 (Agencies): A special counsel report released Thursday found evidence that President Joe Biden willfully retained and shared highly classified information when he was a private citizen, including about military and foreign policy in Afghanistan, but concluded that criminal charges were not warranted.

The report from special counsel Robert Hur resolves a criminal investigation that had shadowed Biden's presidency for the last year. But its biting critical assessment of his handling of sensitive government records and unflattering characterisations of his memory will spark fresh questions about his competency and age that cut at voters' most deep-seated concerns about his candidacy for re-election.

Beyond that, the harsh findings will almost certainly blunt his ability to forcefully condemn Donald Trump, Biden's likely opponent in November's presidential election, over a criminal indictment charging the former president with illegally hoarding classified records at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Despite abundant differences between the cases, Trump immediately seized on the special counsel report to portray himself as a victim of a "two-tiered system of justice."

Yet even as Hur found evidence that Biden willfully held onto and shared with a ghostwriter highly classified information, the special counsel devoted much of his report to explaining why he did not believe the evidence met the standard for criminal charges, including a high probability that the Justice Department would not be able to prove Biden's intent beyond a



reasonable doubt, citing among other things an advanced age that they said made him forgetful and the possibility of "innocent explanations" for the records that they could not refute.

In remarks at the White House, Biden denied Hur's assertion that he shared classified information, saying, "I did not share classified information. I did not share it with my ghostwriter." He also angrily lashed out at the special counsel for questioning his recollection of his late son Beau's death from cancer.

"How in the hell dare he raise that?" Biden asked, saying he didn't believe it was any of Hur's business.

And in response to Hur's portrayal of him, Biden insisted to reporters that "My memory is fine," and said he believes he remains the most qualified person to serve as president.

Biden's lawyers blasted the report for what they said were inaccuracies and gratuitous swipes at the president. In a statement, Biden said he was "pleased" Hur had "reached the conclusion I believed all along they would reach — that there would be no charges brought in this case and the matter is now closed." He pointedly noted that he had sat for five hours of in-

person interviews in the immediate aftermath of Hamas's October attack on Israel, when "I was in the middle of handling an international crisis."

"I just believed that's what I owed the American people so they could know no charges would be brought and the matter closed," Biden said.

The investigation into Biden is separate from special counsel Jack Smith's inquiry into the handling of classified documents by Trump after Trump left the White House. Smith's team has charged Trump with illegally retaining top secret records at his Mar-a-Lago home and then obstructing government efforts to get them back. Trump has said he did nothing wrong.

Hur, a former US Attorney in the Trump administration, was appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland as special counsel in January 2023 following an initial discovery by Biden staff of classified records in Washington office space. Subsequent property searches by the FBI, all coordinated voluntarily by Biden staff, that turned up additional sensitive documents from his time as vice president and senator.

Hur's report said many of the documents recovered at the Penn Biden

Center in Washington, in parts of Biden's Delaware home and in his Senate papers at the University of Delaware were retained by "mistake." Biden could not have been prosecuted as a sitting president, but Hur's report states that he would not recommend charges against Biden regardless.

"We would reach the same conclusion even if Department of Justice policy did not foreclose criminal charges against a sitting president," the report said.

But investigators did find evidence of willful retention and disclosure of a subset of records found in Biden's Wilmington, Delaware house, including in a garage, office and basement. The files pertain to a troop surge in Afghanistan during the Obama administration that Biden had vigorously opposed. He kept records that documented his position, including a classified letter to Obama during the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday.

Documents found in a box in Biden's Delaware garage have classification markings up to the Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information Level and "other materials of great significance to him and that he appears to have personally used and accessed." Hur, though, wrote that there was a "shortage of evidence" to prove that Biden placed the documents in the box and knew they were there.

Some of the classified information related to Afghanistan was shared with a ghostwriter with whom he published memoirs in 2007 and 2017. As part of the probe, investigators reviewed a recording of a February 2017 conversation between Biden and his ghostwriter in which Biden can be heard saying that he had "just found all the classified stuff downstairs."

'Miracle' Rescue Of Child Nearly 60 Hours After Philippine Landslide

MANILA, Feb 9 (Agencies): The rescue of a child on Friday nearly 60 hours after a landslide hit a gold-mining village in the southern Philippines has been hailed as a "miracle" after searchers had given up hope of finding anyone alive.

The girl, whose age has not been disclosed, had been among the more than 100 people missing after the rain-induced landslide hit the village, killing at least 11 people.

She was found as rescuers used their bare hands and shovels to look for survivors in Masara village on southern Mindanao island, disaster agency official Edward Macapili of Davao de Oro province told agency.

"It's a miracle," Macapili said, adding that searchers had believed the missing were prob-

ably dead.

"That gives hope to the rescuers. A child's resilience is usually less than that of adults, yet the child survived."

Video of a rescuer carrying the crying, mud-caked child in his arms was shared on Facebook.

"We can see in the social media posts that the child did not have any visible injuries," Macapili said.

He said the girl's father saw his child before she was taken to a medical facility for a check-up.

The landslide struck Tuesday night, destroying houses and engulfing three buses and a jeepney waiting to pick up workers from a gold mine.

At least 11 people were killed and 31 injured, while more than a hundred are still missing, official figures show.

Searchers were in a race against time and weather to find anyone else alive in the thick mud as rain fell over the area on Friday.

While rescuers were using heavy earth-moving equipment in places, they had to rely on their bare hands and shovels in areas where they believed there were bodies.

Sniffer dogs were also being used to detect those buried in the mud and rubble.

Landslides are a frequent hazard across much of the archipelago nation due to the mountainous terrain, heavy rainfall, and widespread deforestation from mining, slash-and-burn farming and illegal logging.

Rain has pounded parts of Mindanao on and off for weeks, triggering dozens of land-

slides and flooding that have forced tens of thousands of people into emergency shelters.

Massive earthquakes have also destabilised the region in recent months.

Hundreds of families from Masara and four nearby villages have had to evacuate from their homes and shelter in emergency centres for fear of further landslides.

Schools across the municipality have suspended classes.

The area hit by the landslide had been declared a "no build zone" after previous landslides in 2007 and 2008, Macapili said.

"People were asked to leave that place and they were given a resettlement area, but the people are so hard-headed and they returned," he said.

US strikes Houthi missile positions in Yemen



WASHINGTON, Feb 9 (Agencies): The US military conducted new airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said Friday.

American forces destroyed four explosive-loaded drone boats and seven mobile anti-ship cruise missile launchers Thursday that could target vessels in the Red Sea, the US military's Central Command said.

"They presented an imminent threat to U.S.

Navy ships and merchant vessels in the region," the Central Command said.

"These actions will protect freedom of navigation and make international waters safer and more secure for U.S. Navy and merchant vessels." The Houthis have not acknowledged the losses.

On Tuesday, the Houthi rebels said they had struck US and British ships in two attacks in the Red Sea, causing

minor damage but no casualties. On Wednesday, the Houthis' news agency reported that the United States and Britain had hit targets in Yemen's Hodeida province.

The Iran-backed rebels, who control much of war-torn Yemen including the port of Hodeida, have been targeting shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The Houthis began the attacks in November,

saying they were hitting Israel-linked vessels in support of Palestinians in Gaza, which has been ravaged by the Israel-Hamas war. But they have frequently targeted vessels with tenuous or no clear links to Israel, imperiling shipping in a key route for trade among Asia, the Mideast and Europe.

US and British forces have responded with strikes against the Houthis, who have since declared American and British interests to be legitimate targets as well.

The Red Sea attacks have raised insurance premiums for shipping companies, forcing many to avoid the Red Sea, a vital route that normally carries about 12 percent of global maritime trade.

CPMFWA urges PM Modi to address grievances of Ex Central Paramilitary Forces

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association (CPMFWA) of Jammu and Kashmir UT appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pension revisions and urged for the implementation of the Cabinet Committee on Security's directives to extend suitable benefits to Paramilitary Forces personnel.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Chairman of the Association, Ashok Kumar highlighted a series of longstanding grievances faced by the Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces.

Ashok Kumar, flanked by association's General Secretary, D.K. Chauhan, projected various demands which include disparities in treatment compared to Defense Forces, particularly concerning pension schemes and post-retirement benefits.



They emphasized that Paramilitary Forces exhibit the same level of dedication, valour, and patriotism as Defense Forces, however, they are not receiving similar

benefits and post-retirement privileges, which is against natural justice.

They urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revise the pension scheme for Paramilitary Forces, citing examples of disparity between Defense and Paramilitary Forces pensions.

They highlighted the approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security to extend suitable

benefits to Paramilitary Forces personnel, akin to those provided to Ex-Servicemen of Defense Forces by state and UT governments.

They also urged for the timely implementation of the 7th Pay Commission recommendations and payment of pending DA arrears, warning of boycott to vote BJP in coming elections if demands are not met.

They expressed gratitude to Finance Minister for ongoing efforts and appealed for fair treatment in the upcoming budget, particularly requesting a 50% GST concession for Paramilitary Forces.

The association stands united in their commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of Paramilitary Forces personnel.

Others present in the press conference include Ashok Kumar Chairman (CPMF), HarbansLal Vice President (CPMF), Noor Mummud General Secretary (CPMF), Yash Pal (CPMF), Mela Ram (CPMF), Hans Raj (CPMF), Naresh Kumar (CPMF), Harvinder Kour (CPMF) and Jagan Nath (CPMF).

TAVR procedure highly effective in aortic valve stenosis: expert

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Feb 9: "Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure has been proven to be highly effective in treating aortic valve stenosis. TAVR has consistently demonstrated high success rates in treating aortic valve stenosis."

Punjab Rattan award-winning Dr Rajneesh Kapoor said, "According to studies and clinical trials, the procedural success rate for TAVR exceeds 95%. This high success rate can be attributed to the advancements in TAVR technology, including improved valve designs, enhanced imaging, and refined delivery systems."

Dr. Kapoor mentioned that the patients who undergo TAVR experience significant improvements in symptoms associated with aortic valve stenosis.

Shortness of breath, fatigue, and chest pain,

which are common symptoms of the condition, are alleviated after the procedure. Restoring proper blood flow and improving heart function through TAVR leads to an improved quality of life for patients, maintained Dr Kapoor who is chairman interventional cardiology at Medanta Hospitals.

On TAVR associated mortality rates he said that TAVR has been associated with lower mortality rates compared to traditional open-heart surgery, especially in high-risk patients.

Studies have consistently shown that TAVR is non-inferior to surgery in terms of mortality rates, and in some cases, TAVR has demonstrated superior outcomes. This lower mortality rate is attributed to the minimally invasive nature of the procedure and the reduced risk of complications, informed Dr Kapoor.

He further said that one of the advantages of TAVR is its potential to reduce hospital stays compared to open-heart surgery.

The shorter hospitalization period allows patients to recover in the comfort of their own homes sooner. This not only improves patient satisfaction but also reduces healthcare costs associated with prolonged hospital stays, he asserted.

TAVR has been shown to have fewer post-procedural complications compared to traditional open-heart surgery. The reduced risk of infection, bleeding, and other surgical complications contributes to a smoother recovery process for patients, he remarked.

Additionally, the lower incidence of complications minimizes the need for additional interventions, resulting in improved patient outcomes, he said.

Bhalla asks party cadres to gear up for Parliament elections

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: A meeting of District Congress Committee Jammu Urban was held here on Friday at PCC HQ Jammu to take stock of the preparations for the upcoming Parliament elections besides discussing the burning issues of the people. The meeting was chaired by PCC Working President Raman Bhalla.

The meeting was organized by District Congress Committee Jammu Urban led by Th. Manmohan Singh and attended by Senior leaders of PCC, DCC, Block & Ward Presidents, Frontal Organizations heads and others.

Prominent among them include PCC Vice Presidents Yogesh Sawhney (Ex-Minister), Naresh Gupta (EX-MLC & AICC Coordinator for Jammu Parliamentary Seat), Ved Mahajan (Ex-MLC), Rajnish Sharma (Treasurer), Pranav Shagotra, PCC General Secretaries Narinder Gupta (Org), Suresh Dogra, Thomas

Khokhar, Amrit Bali, Satish Sharma, Seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, Jyoti Vaid, Michael Wazir, Dr. RK Khajuria, Latis Sharma, Ricky Dalotra, S.P Sapolia, Atul Sharma, Chander Shekhar, Pawan Sharma, Sanjeev Katal, Anil Kumar, Darshan Verma, Nageshwar, Sunil Sharma, Yash Sangral, Ashwani Sethi, Garu Ram, Ram Magotra, Sushan Gupta, Dewan Chand, Manjeet Singh Bedi, Baldev Singh Wazir, Balwinder Singh Rinlu, Anoop Gupta, Farooq Ahmed, and others.

The meeting took stock of the preparations for the Parliament elections and asked the party cadres to gear up for these elections and defeat the anti people anti youth, anti students, anti farmers, BNP regime. The party sought input from block and Ward presidents regarding the activities of the party. Raman Bhalla lashed out at those parties who have been exploiting the sentiments of the people on various

emotional issues for vote bank politics but utterly failed to deliver. He asked the party functionaries to make aware the people of the communal agenda of BJP and defeat the nefarious designs of communal, divisive and separatist forces. He complimented the people of Jammu region for believing in togetherness and religious harmony despite grave provocations by vested interests.

He said that BJP Govt. in its more than 9 years rule under the prime minister ship of Narendra Modi has ruined the country in every field. Every section of the society is suffering due to its wrong policies and wrong decisions.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are the most sufferers. The Modi Govt. has snatched the right of jobs and land from the people of J&K by downgrading a full-fledged state into Union Territory. The property tax, toll plazas, smart meters, unemployment has added more in the miseries of people of Jammu and Kashmir, Bhalla added.

Russian woman Ekaterina; a true crusader with holy mission of cow protection

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: "The cow is the past and future. She nourishes the health of all living entities, and she is the root of prosperity. The piety one achieves by feeding a cow is never destroyed." - Gavpanishad...

They are a small group of volunteers who have been running a Goshala in Tula region, 200 kilometers from Moscow, Russia with around 90 cows since 2008. They preach cow protection in a cow killing country in a very hostile environment. Their goal is to spread the 'holy message' of cow protection all over the world.

The group is being led by Ekaterina Bondareva alias Prema Sundari who is in her late 30's and a mother of a 9 year old daughter and a 6 year old son who are also struggling for cow protection together with their mother. Armed with tremendous nerve, sheer patience, iron determination and robust optimism, Ekaterina is, at her age, doing what many of her contemporaries can only think of. She has a matured head over her responsible shoulders. She is a woman of substance and a true crusader with a holy mission of cow protection.

Ekaterina is currently in Vrindavan. She will be in national capital Delhi in a couple of days. She told this journalist (Shri Ram Shaw), "Due to the war situation in Russia, the Goshala is in a critical situation and urgently needs help and assistance. We're trying to raise funds to feed the cows throughout winter months which last till May in Russia. So I'm urging people on behalf of all the cows of the Goshala and the Lord to kindly help the Goshala and the cow protection mission in Russia."

"Cow protection means not only protecting cows from slaughter, but providing them a happy life far away from manipulation and abuse. I think India is the only country where cow protection and this kind of struggle in general is appreciated and valued by people. That's why I'm here for help," Ekaterina added.

Pavneet Kour concerned over poor implementation of PMAY in Chatha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Apni Party Provincial President, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour on Friday expressed concern over improper implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in favour of the homeless people in Jammu.

As per the press release, Pavneet Kour, while addressing a meeting at Chatha area in Satwari, interacted with the people of differ-

ent segments of society. The people complained that many of them were not given benefits under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) by the authorities.

"The PMAY scheme was launched to provide homes to the homeless people under the Govt sponsored schemes that need proper implementation without any biased approach," she said after hearing their concern.

She further stated that the concerned authorities have also not been able to implement the development of the lanes and drains in the rural areas of Jammu outskirts.

She, however, assured the people that their concern shall be highlighted before the concerned authorities.

The meeting was attended by Ritu Devi, Varsha, Devinder Singh Gill, Pooja, Yashpaul Choudhary and others.

Army conducts career counseling for girl student at GHSS Dharmari

Top News Report

REASI, Feb 9: In continuation with the efforts to guide youth to ensure better career opportunities, Indian Army conducted a Career Counseling session for girl students of Govern-

ment Higher Secondary School Dharmari on 08 Feb 2024.

The aim of the event was to provide advice and assist girls in selecting their career options, thereby empowering them to contribute positively towards progress

of society. A total of 15 students participated in the event with enthusiasm.

The initiative would assist in ensuring bright future of the students and strengthen connect between Indian Army and people.

FROM PAGE 1

Shrine Board conferred with 'Sport for Social Good' Award at Sportstar Aces Awards

CEO also highlighted the achievements of Para Archers of Sports Complex, 3 of whom would be representing India at the upcoming Paralympics in Paris. He underlined that glory earned in the games is giving new impetus to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex and to around 150 budding sports-persons getting trained in disciplines like Archery, Athletics, Judo and Shooting. The sportspersons trained in the sports complex have been showing promising results in varied competitions winning a rich haul of 80 medals at the National and 12 at the International level in a short span.

Arjuna Awardee Paraarcher Sheetal Devi of SMVD Sports Complex won the Sportstar Aces Award in the categories for the 'Sportstar of the Year (female)' and Popular Choice Award for 'Moment of the Year' in the Award Ceremony in recognition of medals won by her at National and International Sports Arena while shooting using her feet.

Noteworthy is that the World's first armless Archer Sheetal, won a record three medals at her maiden Asian Para Games in Hangzhou in October last year. The impressive haul included two gold medals in mixed doubles and women's individual category, and silver in women's doubles compound. Earlier in the year-2023, Sheetal also bagged a silver medal at the World Para Archery Championships in Pilsen, Czech Republic. The World No. 1 para, who also won the gold medal in the open category of compound section at the inaugural Khelo India Para Games in New Delhi on December 16, is eyeing glory at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games.

Pertinent to mention here that paraarchers affiliated with the Board besides securing medals in the Para Archery events, also won quota places for the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

Tax Bar Association felicitates Comm PK Bhat

While speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Kapahi, the President of Tax Bar Association Jammu said that he feels great pleasure and honor to welcome the esteemed guest Commissioner State Taxes P.K. Bhat, and Additional Commissioner Namarta Dogra. Kapahi added that the appointment of P.K. Bhat as the Commissioner of State Tax marks a significant moment for all of us. With over 30 years of experience in the field of taxation, Mr. Bhat's journey from a village in Anantnag district to his current position is truly inspiring. His dedication and expertise, demonstrated through various roles within the Sales Tax Department, including DC Appeal, make him a commendable choice for this crucial role, especially during the critical phase of GST implementation.

PK Bhat while speaking said that he feels privileged to be a part of such a department in which he has already served over 30 years and also thanks all the advocates with whom he learnt alot and got expertise in the field of taxation. He said that the grievances which the worthy members are facing will be addressed on priority and hope that all will work together with full cooperation and coordination.

Vikram Dubey has done the proceedings of the meeting and said we also express our gratitude for addressing the long-standing demand for VAT amnesty, with special thanks to Additional Commissioner Smt. Namarta Dogra for her important role in this matter during her tenure as DC Recovery.

Renu Verma and Dheeraj Bhasin said that we are confident that our grievances will be addressed in a timely manner, benefiting both taxpayers and tax professionals.

Ishant Gupta extended vote of thanks and said that we look forward to a productive collaboration and fruitful outcomes under his guidance.

Prominent who present on this moment were Subash Dutt, Rattan Lal Gupta, VK Grover, Mohinder Gupta, Vinod Suri, BM Mangotra, Sunil Sharma, Vikas Chopra, Rakesh Modi, Kamal Gupta, Anil Gupta, Sourav Mahajan, BB Bakshi, Rajinder Sharma, Rohit Gupta, Suraj Singh Wazir, Bageshwar Khajuria, Ashwani Goswami, Gourav Arora, Sumeet Mahajan, Pawan Sharma, Balram Gandotra, Yudvir Gupta and Others.

Centre confers Bharat Ratna on former PMs Charan Singh and Narasimha Rao, M.S. Swaminathan

Appreciating Swaminathan's contributions to the field of agriculture, Modi said, "It is a matter of immense joy that the Government of India is conferring the Bharat Ratna on Dr M.S. Swaminathan Ji, in recognition of his monumental contributions to our nation in agriculture and farmers' welfare. He played a pivotal role in helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture during challenging times and made outstanding efforts towards modernizing Indian agriculture."

Modi added that he knew Swaminathan closely and valued his inputs. "We also recognise his invaluable work as an innovator and mentor and encouraging learning and research among several students. Dr Swaminathan's visionary leadership has not only transformed Indian agriculture but also ensured the nation's food security and prosperity. He was someone I knew closely and I always valued his insights and inputs," he said.

Over 1000 financial frauds reported in J&K in 2023

Officials emphasised that various types of financial frauds, including those involving UPI, digital banking, credit cards, and QR codes, were prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additionally, scams related to employment and social media were also on the rise, indicating a multifaceted challenge for authorities.

To combat the surge in finan-

cial frauds, awareness campaigns have been launched. People are informed through social media and newspapers about the risks associated with sharing sensitive information like bank details, ATM pins and OTPs. Authorities are urging individuals to exercise caution and avoid clicking on suspicious links.

Highlighting the magnitude of the issue on a national

scale, a recent study conducted by an IIT Kanpur-incubated startup revealed that financial frauds accounted for over 75 percent of cyber crimes in the country from January 2020 till June 2023.

Nearly 50 percent of these cases were linked to UPI and internet banking, emphasising the need for robust cybersecurity measures and increased public awareness.

Sensex, Nifty register muted gains; Paytm shares down 6%

The S&P BSE Sensex was up 132.68 points at 71,561.11 at 10:11 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was up 17.75 points to 21,735.70.

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): Benchmark stock market indices opened the trading session on a muted note on Friday, tracking weak global cues and a slide in financial stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex was up 132.68 points at 71,561.11 at 10:11 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was up 17.75 points to 21,735.70. Both the indices were off to a weak start at the opening bell as volatility remains high.

What came as a surprise was that the domestic-focused broader market indices witnessed a bigger slide in comparison to the benchmark Sensex and Nifty.

While Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial Services rebounded after falling in early trade, the overall



sentiment was dragged down by weakness in metal, realty, IT and oil & gas stocks.

The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were ITC, ICICI Bank, Reliance, SBI and Sun Pharma. On the other hand, the top losers were ONGC, M&M, Hindalco, Coal India and BPCL.

Mandar Bhojane, research analyst at Choice Broking, said, "On the daily chart, the Nifty has formed a significant Bearish Engulf,

indicating bearish pressure."

"On the lower side, Nifty is expected to find strong support around 21,500-21,400 levels, and dips towards these levels can be considered for initiating fresh long positions, Bhojane noted.

"From current levels, in the short term, the upside will be limited, and the range of 22,000-22,200 will continue to act as a stiff supply zone for the index," he added.

Biocon expands Sandoz partnership to sell biosimilars in Australia

Sandoz will promote, sell and distribute two of Biocon Biologic's cancer biosimilars - Trastuzumab and Bevacizumab - in Australia

BANGALORE, Feb 9 (Agencies): Bangalore-based Biocon Biologics Ltd (BBL) announced a new partnership with Sandoz AG to promote, sell and distribute two of its cancer biosimilars - Trastuzumab and Bevacizumab - in Australia. The 5-year exclusive agreement provides Sandoz the rights to market these medications under BBL's brands OGIVRI and ABEVMIY.

Trastuzumab biosimilar OGIVRI is a cheaper version of Roche's breast cancer drug Herceptin, while Bevacizumab biosimilar ABEVMIY mirrors Roche's Avastin that treats several tumor types. Both biosimilars were previously distributed in Australia by another pharmaceutical firm before this deal.

A biosimilar is a biologic medical product



that is almost an identical copy of an original product that is manufactured by a different company and are designed to have properties and effects highly similar to an already FDA-approved biologic, known as the "reference product." Biologics are complex medications derived from living organisms and are used to treat diseases like cancer or autoimmune disorders.

Unlike generic drugs made from simple chemical compounds,

biosimilars are much more structurally complex and made using living cells, making an exact replica impossible.

Biocon Biologics said the agreement with Sandoz enables continued patient access to these vital cancer medicines by leveraging Sandoz's reach and capabilities in the Australian pharmaceutical market.

"This relationship is also a crucial step for patients in Australia, ensuring continued

access to high-quality, affordable biosimilar medicines used in oncology," the company said.

As per estimates, Trastuzumab and Bevacizumab have a combined market value of AUD 80 million in Australia. By securing distribution through Sandoz, BBL aims to drive higher utilization of its biosimilars and expand patient access to these essential treatments.

The deal also expands the global Biocon-Sandoz partnership estab-

lished last December for the Japanese market. For Sandoz, it bolsters their biosimilars portfolio for oncology while advancing patient access.

The commercialization of OGIVRI and ABEVMIY by Sandoz in Australia has already commenced on 1st February 2024 after regulatory approvals. The expanded availability of these economical biosimilars is a promising development for cancer patients in Australia as costs have been a major barrier to treatment access over the years.

BBL now has 8 commercialized biosimilars across several advanced & emerging economies. According to BBL's executives, this deal aligns with their mission of transforming healthcare through high-quality biosimilars with expanded reach.

About 3.4 crore older Indians living with mild cognitive impairment, affecting daily lives: Study

NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): In India, an estimated 3.4 crore older adults, aged 60 years and above, are living with mild cognitive impairment, affecting their daily lives and activities in some manner, new research has found.

It estimated that 2.4 crore and almost 1 crore older adults are living with mild and major neurocognitive disorders, respectively, impairing faculties like memory, attention, executive function and language, and signifying potential dementia.

Using survey data from nationally representative sample of adults in India, researchers found a higher prevalence of these disorders in the older ones (over 80 years old) and in those with lower levels of education. The prevalence in women and men was found to be comparable and almost equal.

The team also found the prevalence to be higher in rural-living older adults than urban ones, and more in the illiterate than the literate.

About 13.4 crore adults in India are estimated to be aged 60 years and above, and are projected to constitute 20 per cent of the population by 2050, they said.

For the study, the international team of researchers, led by Johns Hopkins University, US, and including those at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, Karnataka, recruited almost 4,100 participants residing in 18 geographically and linguistically diverse states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, among others. The majority of the group was aged 60-79 years.

This study is called the LASI-DAD, Harmonized Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia for the Longitudinal Aging Study in India, and the participants were recruited from the main LASI. They collectively represented 91 per cent of the population, the researchers said in their study published in the journal PLoS ONE.

"We are aware of no



previous Indian population-representative estimates of mild cognitive impairment, a group which will be increasingly important in coming years to identify for potential therapeutic treatment," the authors wrote.

For their analysis, the researchers relied on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), a widely recognised clinical diagnostic authority. It recognises that dementia typically involves cognitive decline severe enough to interfere with one's daily functioning, they

explained.

The DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for neurocognitive disorder entails documentation of cognitive decline and assessing how independent an individual performs their everyday activities. The criteria also describes exclusionary conditions, based on which the researchers excluded participants with active delirium, schizophrenia, history of stroke, and major depression, all of which were ascertained through interviews.

Upon analysing all the data, the researchers found that the population prevalence of

DSM-5 mild and major neurocognitive disorder was 17.6 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively.

They also found that the prevalence of major neurocognitive disorder was greater with older ages - from about 4 per cent among those aged 60-64 years to 15.2 per cent among those aged over 80 years.

Among the participant sample, the team found that 12 per cent reported severe loss in at least one ADL (activities of daily living) and 8.5 per cent reported impairment in any IADL (instrumental activities of daily living).

Major neurocognitive disorder was more prevalent among illiterate (9.3 per cent) than literate (5 per cent) and rural (10.3 per cent) than urban (4.9 per cent) participants, they found.

"These findings, coupled with a growing number of older adults in the coming decades in India, have important implications for society, public health, and families," the researchers wrote.

Research reveals surprising connection between body temperature and depression



WASHINGTON DC (US), Feb 9 (Agencies): People with depression have higher body temperatures, which suggests that reducing their temperatures may have a mental health advantage, according to a new UC San Francisco research.

The study, published in Scientific Reports, doesn't indicate whether depression raises body temperature or a higher temperature causes depression. It's also unknown whether the higher body temperature observed in people with depression reflects decreased ability to self-cool, increased generation of heat from metabolic processes or a combination of both.

Researchers analysed data from more than 20,000 international participants who wore a device that measures body temperature, and also self-reported their body temperatures and depression symptoms daily. The seven-month study began in early 2020 and included data from 106 countries.

The results showed that with each increasing level of depression symp-

tom severity, participants had higher body temperatures. The body temperature data also showed a trend toward higher depression scores in people whose temperatures had less fluctuation throughout a 24-hour period, but this finding didn't reach significance.

The findings shed light on how a novel depression treatment method might work, said Ashley Mason, PhD, the study's lead author and associate professor of psychiatry at UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences. A small body of existing, causal studies has found that using hot tubs or saunas can reduce depression, possibly by triggering the body to self-cool, for example, through sweating.

"Ironically, heating people up actually can lead to rebound body temperature lowering that lasts longer than simply cooling people down directly, as through an ice bath," said Mason, who is also a clinical psychologist at the UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Health.

"What if we can track the body temperature of people with depression to time heat-based treatments well?"

"To our knowledge, this is the largest study to date to examine the association between body temperature - assessed using both self-report methods and wearable sensors - and depressive symptoms in a geographically broad sample," added Mason. "Given the climbing rates of depression in the United States, we're excited by the possibilities of a new avenue for treatment."

Study shows anticoagulants fail to prevent unexplained strokes

NEW YORK, Feb 9 (Agencies): A common practice of prescribing anticoagulants to people who have had unexplained strokes should stop, according to a study that shows it is not beneficial to prevent the risk.

Anticoagulants were thought to prevent additional strokes in people whose initial stroke has an unknown cause but who have a heart condition, atrial cardiopathy that resembles atrial fibrillation, a common cause of stroke.

"We know these drugs work for people with atrial fibrillation, so we thought that they would probably work for people with atrial cardiopathy as well," said Mitchell Elkind, Professor of neurology at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

However, the trial of 1,015 people, published in JAMA, found that patients with atrial cardiopathy who were given the anticoagulant apixaban had the same stroke rate, 4.4 per cent as patients who were given aspirin, the current standard of care.

"It's disappointing as a physician-scientist to not have your hypothesis proven, but this study is still providing really useful information.



"It tells neurologists that patients with this type of heart condition, atrial cardiopathy, should not get anticoagulants, which are riskier than aspirin and should be reserved for people with definitive evidence of atrial fibrillation," Elkind said.

One-third of strokes have unknown causes, a challenge for neurologists trying to help their patients avoid subsequent strokes.

The team found that the unexplained strokes occur due to changes in heart that resemble changes seen in AFib.

They said there are several possible reasons why the trial did not support their hypothesis, including that they tested the right treatment in the wrong patients.

New heart treatment to help grow a replacement valve inside body

LONDON, Feb 9 (Agencies): Replacement heart valves that grow inside the body may be a step closer to reality.

Researchers at the Imperial College London and Harefield Hospital in the UK have developed a novel treatment that harnesses body's natural repair mechanisms to build a living heart valve.

The results are published in the journal Communications Biology.

"The aim of the concept we've developed is to produce a living valve in the body, which would be able to grow with the patient," said Yuan-Tsan Tseng, a biomaterials scientist working at the Imperial's National Heart and Lung Institute and

the Harefield Heart Science Centre.

Heart valve replacement is a life-saving treatment, but it is rarely a long-term solution. Both mechanical and biological valves have their own drawbacks. Patients with mechanical valves must take drugs for the rest of their lives to prevent blood clotting.

Biological valves, on the other hand, only last between 10 to 15 years. The treatment is particularly challenging for children with congenital heart defects, as the valves do not grow along with their bodies and must be replaced several times before they reach adulthood.

The new procedure begins with a nanofibrous polymeric valve,

but made from a biodegradable polymer scaffold rather than a durable plastic.

"Once this is inside the body, the scaffold recruits cells and instructs their development, so that the body works as a bioreactor to grow new tissues," Tseng explained. "The scaffold gradually degrades and is replaced by our body's own tissues."

The scaffold material used to make the valve is the key innovation. "It has the capability to attract, house, and instruct appropriate cells from the patient's own body, thereby facilitating tissue generation and maintaining valve function."

The team transplanted the valve into sheep and

monitored for up to six months.

"The valves performed well," Tseng said. "They continued to function for the six months of the trial, and also showed good cellular regeneration."

In particular, the study shows that the scaffold was able to attract cells from the blood stream which then developed into functional tissues, a process known as endothelial-to-mesenchymal transformation.

"We've also seen nerves and fatty tissues growing in the scaffold, as we might expect in a normal valve."

Meanwhile, the polymer could be seen degrading to make way for the new tissue.

"If there was no regen-

eration, the valve would fall apart as the polymer degrades. But what we see is continuing functionality, and that means cell regeneration is taking place over time. That proves that our idea of in-vivo regeneration is working."

More work is required to determine exactly which processes are causing the polymer to degenerate and how closely it is linked to tissue regeneration.

"But the tissue regeneration is definitely sufficient to cover the structural integrity and functionality of the valve," Tseng said.

The team aims to get regulatory approval for the first clinical trials, hopefully in the next five years or so.

A dream holds team together

Looking to bring trophy back home, skipper Saharan's men fuelled by bonding

BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA), Feb 9 (Agencies): The camaraderie in the dressing room has played a significant role in the Indian team's dominant run in the U19 World Cup, skipper Uday Sharan said that as he vowed to bring the trophy back home.

Defending champions India have not lost a single match in the tournament. They have logged big-margin victories and were not tested till they bumped into hosts South Africa in the semifinals in which they scored a narrow two-wicket win.

India have been a force to reckon with in the Under-19 World Cup, reaching the title clash seven times in the last nine editions.

"It is a dream for all of us to win this tournament. Everyone gets only one Under-19 World Cup and we want to repeat history," Saharan said. "We also want to register our names in history. We are focused on giving our best. We promise to give everything to bring the cup back," he added.

India's power-packed performance in the tournament was highlighted by three 200-plus-run margin wins. "The secret to



our good performance is team bonding. The atmosphere in the dressing room is very friendly. Everyone trusts each other and is ready to help each other. That is why the performance graph has been consistently good," said Saharan, who spent his early days in Sri Ganganagar before shifting to the border town of Fazilka in Punjab.

"We are not focusing on the rival team, we are concentrating on our own game. We have made a match-by-match strategy and are taking every match seriously," Saharan, who has

scored 389 runs in six matches so far, said.

Asked if the Indian colts would have revenge on their minds when they play against Australia in the final since the senior team had lost to them in the ODI World Cup final last year, Saharan said, "I am not thinking anything like that. We are focusing on our game and we have to give our best. We are playing according to the match conditions."

Finisher Chasing a target of 245 in their semifinal against South Africa,

Saharan pulled the team out of trouble after it had lost four wickets for just 32 runs. "I chose to be the finisher and I will try to fulfil the responsibility till the end, to take the team to victory. I remain calm even if the match is in a tight spot. It is important to keep the mind working," he added.

A lot of stalwarts such as Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Ravindra Jadeja emerged from the Under-19 World Cup. Saharan refused comparisons with these stars, saying he won't take the pressure of legacy. "I don't think about the past. I just think about how I can give my best for the team and how to get the best out of the team," he said.

"Shubman is also from Fazilka and has emerged from Under-19 World Cup, which is inspiring. My aim from the beginning was also to make my country proud," he said. "Virat Kohli is my favourite because his passion and aggression are amazing. His love for the game, enthusiasm and desire to win inspire me. I have never met him but we have talked on the team video call. I want to meet him very soon," he added.

Nikhat one win away from glory



SOFIA (BULGARIA), Feb 9 (Agencies): Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen eked out a gritty win while Arundhati Choudhary too won her bout to advance to the semifinals of the 75th Strand Memorial tournament here.

The first Indian to take the ring, Nikhat defeated France's Lkhadiri Wasila by a 5-0 unanimous verdict in the 50kg class.

However, the bout was much closer than the scoreline reflected as both boxers fought neck and neck before Nikhat edged the French pugi-

list. It was a close encounter from the go as both looked well-prepared to tackle each other's moves.

But Nikhat used her quick movements and counter-attacking game to take the first round 3-2.

The second started on a similar note as both the boxers were cautious and didn't commit much to attacking. Nikhat managed to stay ahead of her opponent, once again taking the round 3-2.

In the third round,

Nikhat looked at her best as she dodged Lkhadiri's attacks efficiently while delivering some quality blows.

Lkhadiri tried to be more aggressive but the Indian was better equipped to deal with it and won the bout.

Nikhat will now meet home favourite Zlatislava Chukanova in the semifinals on Saturday.

In the other match of the day, national champion Arundhati (66kg) dominated Matovic Milena of Serbia in a 5-0 win. She will face Jessica Triebelova of Slovakia in the semifinals. Sakshi (57kg) suffered a 2-3 defeat to Mamajonova Khumoranobu of Uzbekistan to exit the tournament in the quarters.

Late on Wednesday, Deepak (75kg) and Naveen Kumar (92kg) entered the quarterfinals with 5-0 unanimous decision wins over Asankul Uulu Sultan of Kyrgyzstan and Voisnarovic Darius of Lithuania, respectively.

Australia name 14-member squad for New Zealand Tests, Michael Neser called up

CANBERRA, Feb 9 (Agencies): Michael Neser earned a recall as Australia named a strong 14-member squad for their 2-match Test series against New Zealand.

Neser is currently playing for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield, where he scored 47 runs and picked up 2 wickets in the recent match against Tasmania at The Gabba in Brisbane.

For the series against the Black Caps, Neser is unlikely to be picked above the likes of Mitchell Starc, Schott Boland, and Josh Hazlewood.

However, chief selector George Bailey said Australia included an additional speedster since the conditions in New Zealand would be conducive to fast bowling. "It's great to see Michael Neser get another opportunity in the squad following his ever-consistent performances over a long period of time and the conditions we expect,"



Bailey said.

Neser has played only 2 Tests for Australia since his debut in the Adelaide Test against England in the Ashes back in December 2021.

Matthew Renshaw has retained his spot in the squad as a reserve opener with Australia likely to persist with Steve Smith at the top of the order.

Australia are currently placed second in the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 points table with 66 points from 10 matches.

"As we know, every Test match provides vital opportunities to obtain valuable WTC points, and we expect this tour will be a tough

challenge against a very strong side who have been so consistent at home for a long period of time," he added.

The opening Test is scheduled to get underway on February 29 at the Sky Stadium in Wellington. The Hagley Oval in Christchurch will host the second Test from March 8 onwards.

Australia Test squad for New Zealand Tests Pat Cummins (c), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marcus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Michael Neser, Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith (vc), Mitchell Starc.

Australia edge out Pakistan by one wicket, to face India in U19 World Cup final

The summit clash will be played at the same venue on Sunday

BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA), Feb 9 (Agencies): Tom Straker's six-wicket haul and Harry Dixon's fifty inspired Australia to a tense one-wicket victory over brave Pakistan in the semifinal here on Thursday, setting up their ICC Under-19 World Cup final against defending champions India.

The summit clash will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

Pakistan made a below par 179, built around two half-centuries by Arafat Minhas (52) and Azan Awais (52) as they struggled against pacer Straker (6/24).

Despite having their own struggles against spirited Pakistan bowlers, the Aussies managed to reach 181 for 9 in 49.1 overs to seal the final berth with Dixon (50, 75b, 5x4) and Oliver Peake (49, 75b, 3x4) leading their chase.

While India will be playing their ninth title match, the Aussies are appearing in their sixth final.

India have won a record five titles while Australia have bagged three, and the last time the Yellow Brigade lifted the trophy was in 2010 with a win over Pakistan. That edition was



held in New Zealand.

However, Australia's win was anything but smooth as a bunch of determined Pakistan bowlers made them stretch for every single run.

Australian openers Dixon and Sam Konstas (14) added 33 runs but they lost four wickets while adding 26 runs in 6.2 overs that pushed them into a tight corner.

Not many teams relish the pressure situation better than the Aussies and they brought out that quality to the fore here too.

Dixon, who made his third fifty of the tournament, and Peake milked 43 runs for the fifth

wicket in a shade over 10 overs that kept the Aussies firmly in the hunt.

But left-arm spinner Minhas snapped the partnership, casting Dixon with a sharply-spun ball that clipped the bails off.

But Peake and Tom Campbell (25, 42b, 2x4) guided the Aussies forward adding 44 runs in a little over 11 overs without taking any undue risks.

However, a moment of pure magic from Arafat ended the blossoming stand, as the Pakistan spinner rattled Campbell's off-stump with an arm ball.

Pakistan soon inflicted an even bigger blow through impressive 15-year-old pacer Ali Raza who

had Peake caught behind down the leg side.

Raza, who bowled through the cramps during his last spell, soon added Straker and Mahli Beardman to the list of victims in his last over as Australia slumped to 164 for nine.

They needed a further 16 runs to win from that point with a wicket in hand but Raf MacMillan (19 not out) and Callum Vidler (3 not out) dragged their team past the line in the final over.

In contrast to their lion-hearted effort with the ball, Pakistan, earlier, had dished out a shaky effort with the bat after the Aussies won the toss and elected to field.

They lost openers Shamyul Hussain and Shazaib Khan inside the first Power Play segment itself as the Aussies pacers bowled the hard lengths to keep their opponents on the backfoot.

Straker, Beardman and Vidler bent their backs to hit the pitch hard and purchase a good amount of bounce and carry to trouble Pakistan batters as they could only manage 27 runs in the initial 10 overs.

AB de Villiers admits 'terrible mistake', says his information about Virat Kohli break 'not true at all'

CAPE TOWN, Feb 9 (Agencies): Former South African captain AB de Villiers has said that he made a terrible mistake by sharing wrong information about the reason behind Virat Kohli taking a break from the ongoing England Test series.

De Villiers said that the info he gave on his YouTube channel wasn't true at all and claimed no one knows what is happening at the moment.

What did AB de Villiers initially say about Virat Kohli's break?

Virat Kohli withdrew from the first two Tests of the series against England, citing personal reasons and the BCCI, in an detailed statement, urged fans and media not to speculate the reasons for Kohli's decision. The Indian cricket board said that Kohli discussed the call with captain Rohit Sharma and the team management before pulling out of the first two matches of the much-followed Test series.

De Villiers would say that Kohli was doing well and was spending time with his family. The former RCB star would then



go on to reveal that Kohli and Anushka Sharma are expecting their second child.

"All I know is he is fine. He is spending a bit of time with his family, that is the reason he is missing the first two Test matches. I am not going to confirm anything else. I cannot wait to see him back. He is fine, he is doing well," AB de Villiers said in his YouTube show on Saturday.

"Let me just see what he said. I just want to at least give you (fans) a little bit of love," he added.

"So I wrote to him 'Been want-

ing to check in with you (sic) for a while now biscuits. How are you?'. He said 'Just need to be with my family right now. I am doing well.'"

"Yes, his second child is on the way. Yes, it's family time and things are important to him. If you are not true and genuine to yourself, you lose track of what you are here for. I think most people's priority is family. You can't judge Virat for that. Yes, we miss him. But he has made absolutely the right decision," he added.

Made a terrible mistake: De

Villiers performs U-turn on Kohli info

De Villiers, in an interaction with Dainik Bhaskar, has now said that he made a terrible mistake by sharing wrong info with the fans about Kohli's unavailability and doesn't know why the Indian star is on a break at the moment.

De Villiers said he is hoping Kohli makes a quick comeback to the side.

"Absolutely family comes first, it's a priority, as I said on my YouTube show. Also, I made a terrible mistake at the same time and yeah, sharing false information which was not true at all. No one knows what's happening," De Villiers told Dainik Bhaskar.

"That's all I can do is wish him well and I think the whole world that follows Virat and that enjoys his cricket, must just wish him well, and whatever the reason is for this break. Really hope that he comes back stronger, better, healthier, and fresh," the former South Africa captain added.

Ravindra Jadeja Provides Huge Injury Update Ahead Of Team Selection For England Tests



NEW DELHI, Feb 9 (Agencies): Indian cricket team all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja took to social media to provide a massive injury update ahead of the team selection for the remaining three Test matches against England. Jadeja suffered a hamstring injury during the first Test match and that resulted in him missing the second match that India won comprehensively in Visakhapatnam. With the five-match series placed perfectly at 1-1, India will benefit immensely from Jadeja making a comeback from injury. The cricketer posted a picture of himself from the National Cricket Academy along with the caption - "Getting better #NCA." Meanwhile, Jasprit Bumrah became

the first Indian pacer to top the ICC Test rankings after a stellar performance against England in Visakhapatnam.

The 30-year-old's nine-wicket match haul has helped him leapfrog Pat Cummins, Kagiso Rabada and Ravichandran Ashwin, making him only the fourth from his country to attain number one position.

Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Bishan Singh Bedi are the other Indians who have been at the top of the charts.

Bumrah, who was named Player of the Match after helping India level the five-match series with a 106-run victory, ended Ashwin's 11-month long reign. Ashwin, on 499 Test wickets, is now third in the standings.

Bumrah now has 881 rating points with Ashwin (904) and Jadeja (899) the only India bowlers to have aggregated more rating points. Ashwin and Jadeja also have the unique distinction of being jointly top-ranked in March 2017.

The batting rankings see left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal progress 37 places to 29th after completing a fine double-century in the first innings and Shubman Gill go up 14 places to a career-best 38th after notching a century in the second innings.

Hundreds joined Cong under Former Minister Yashpal Kundal

Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 9: The clan of Congress Party is increasing day by day in district Samba under the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir Congress Party UT Vice President and former Minister Yashpal Kundal.

Every day, leaders, workers and officials of different parties are leaving other parties and joining the Congress Party.

While visiting various villages of Rajpura block of Samba district, Kundal listened to the problems of the people. People told Kundal that electricity bills are increased every month. Inflation is skyrocketing and it is becoming difficult to even run the kitchen at home.



When we go before the administration with our problems, there is no hearing. In his address, Yashpal Kundal said that the way the party is getting people's support in Jammu and Kashmir, it seems that this time people will give man-

date to Congress to create a corruption-free state.

He said that due to the absence of an elected government, people are being deprived of their rights. Happy with the ideology of the Congress Party, hundreds

of people took part in the program and were members of the Congress Party.

Former minister Yashpal Kundal and other colleagues welcomed them into the party by garlanding them with flowers. Kundal said we

welcome many prominent leaders joining us today.

This is an indication that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want Congress to lead them in addressing their issues and bringing peace and progress."

Vasu Sharma brings laurels to Ranjan Village by qualifying EA exams

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Evim Vedic Sansthan Trust Bantala, Jammu congratulated Vasu Sharma, son of Suman Lal Shastri of Ranjan Village, who brought laurels to Village by qualifying EA exams (US taxation) of internal Revenue service.

He said that Vasu sharma success has great added to the honour of her village. All the resident of the village are proud of his glorious achievement. Speaking on the occa-



sion, Mahant Rohit Shastri said that he worked hard day and night and created history through his achievement.

He said that his example shows that we should not give up chasing our dreams when confronted with challenges.

We should have faith in ourselves that come what may, we are going

to succeed and emerge victorious.

He wished best of luck for her brilliant future and hoped that she would have many more achievement to her credit in future also.

His achievement was a proof of his hard work, dedication and determination.

He exhorted the youth to try to emulate Vasu sharma example and contribute in the progress of the nation by their achievements.

Speaking on the occasion, Vasu sharma gave the credit of his success to the support he received from her parents.

SMVDU Alumnus from IIM interacts with students



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 9: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) hosted an inspiring Alumni Talk on Competitive Exam Preparation.

In an engaging session aimed at guiding current students on navigating competitive exams, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University welcomed alumnus, Aditya Vikram from the 2019 B.Tech batch of Mechanical Engineering.

The talk, titled "How to Prepare for Competitive Exams" was held at the university campus.

Aditya Vikram, currently pursuing his career at IIM Amritsar as Senior Coordinator, shared invaluable insights garnered from his journey in preparing for competitive exams.

His remarkable achievements, including scoring an impressive 99.24 percentile in the CAT 2021 exam and being named a National Finalist in the Business Line Boardroom Challenge 2022, served as a testament to his expertise in the field. During the talk, Aditya Vikram delved into strategies, tips, and best practices for excelling in com-

petitive exams, drawing from his personal experiences and lessons learned along the way. His advice resonated strongly with the audience, comprising current students eager to chart their paths to success.

The event was hosted by Suhani Rajput, a 2nd-year student of BA economics, and Abhishek Kumar Sharma 3rd-year Mechanical engineering student.

The event was coordinated by the office of Dean International and Alumni Affairs. Dr. Yugal Khajuria, Dean of International and Alumni Affairs, and Dr. Mir Irfan UI Haq, Associate Dean of International and Alumni Affairs spoke at the occasion and felicitated the speaker.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS coordinator SMVDU was also present during the event. The alumnus thanked the SMVDU authorities for the opportunity.

Leelawati, Prof.Pritam conferred with Honorary doctorate by AIU



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Leelawati, Young Yoga Trainer from Didwana Rajasthan conferred with Honorary doctorate Award along with Prof. Pritam Chakraborty.

Professor Pritam Chakraborty is a professor of management mentoring students for their studies and guiding them in choosing right career and also grooming them.

He has presented paper in several national and international conferences and also published article in reputed journals.

His main aim is to integrate traditional and modern education techniques and bring allround holistic development.

Both of them are young dynamic and working for the welfare of the society since many years.

Ashtedu Akhada Association of J&K attended National Masters Training camp at Maharashtra

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 9: In an effort to promote and develop the Indian martial art Ashtedu, a group of 5 members trainers from Ashtedu Akhada Association of Jammu & Kashmir attended the National Masters Train-

ing body for the promotion and development of Ashtedu Martial Art in India from 1st February to 4th February 2024.

Raj Kumar, Adil Hussain, Shahid Hilal, Naveed Mukhtar, Umaan Rafiq participated in this national

day of masters training camp, the Annual general meeting was held in which Raj Kumar General secretary of Ashtedu Akhada Association of Jammu & Kashmir was elected as senior vice president in the national body.

Adil Hussain said



ing Camp at Bhandara Maharashtra.

The masters training camp was organized by Maharashtra Ashtedu Mardani Akhada Association under the auspices of Ashtedu Akhada Federation of Bharat, which is the national

Masters training camp. Rajesh Talmale, General Secretary National Ashtedu Mardani Akhada Federation Bharat praised Kashmir members for participating in National Masters training camp. On the concluding

that Ashtedu Akhada Association of Jammu & Kashmir is going to organize a state championship on 17th and 18th February 2024 at Jammu as well as selection trials for Asmita Women's League which will be held in New Delhi.

Zindagi breaks boundaries with 'Abdullahpur Ka Devdas'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Zindagi, the trailblazing entertainment brand, is set to mesmerize Indian audiences with the launch of its much-awaited show Abdullahpur Ka Devdas on February 26, 2024.

Directed by Anjum Shahzad and written by Shahid Dogar, this 13-episode show promises a captivating blend of love, friendship, and poetic drama.

Set in a small town, Abdullahpur Ka Devdas is the coming-of-age story of Fakhar, played by Ek Jhoothi Love Story fame Bilal Abbas, and Kashif, played by Raza Talish—two best friends unknowingly in love with the same woman, Gulbano, as essayed by Sarah Khan.

However, Gulbano's fantasies have been captured by an anonymous poet named Devdas. As the plot progresses, Kashif reveals himself to be Devdas, becoming the object of Gulbano's desire. Unbeknown to her, the true Devdas is



Fakhar. Abdullahpur Ka Devdas is a classic story of love and how a person truly in love can cross all boundaries, even if that means sacrificing their love.

This heartfelt story is a power package of love, friendship, betrayal, and sacrifice. Moreover, the ensemble cast, featuring Savera Nadeem, Anoushay Abbasi, and Noman Ijaz, adds depth to the narrative.

The show also explores the delicate balance between love and friendship, posing the poignant question, "Mehboob ya Mohabat?" While love holds all the power in our lives, sacrifices, and compro-

mises become predominant in the show. As we see Fakhar(Bilal Abbas) worrying about his lover's happiness before his own, he goes in the end to sacrifice it all together. Zindagi's commitment to bold multicultural narratives shines through, making this show one of the most anticipated.

Elevating the experience, Abdullahpur Ka Devdas also promises to bring to you soul-stirring melodies, which include tracks like 'Biba Sada Dil Morr De' by Zain Ali, Zuhaib Ali, Sami Khan, Iqra Manzoor and lyrics (recreated) by Sami Khan and 'Oh Sahib' by Adnan Dhool, Zain & Zohaib and lyrics by

Asim Raza enriching the storytelling with a melodic touch.

The soon-to-be national crush of India Sarah Khan said, "Abdullahpur Ka Devdas introduces a spin to the idea of love stories in the most heart-breaking but relatable way.

It was a wonderful experience working with such talented people on a unique script. I knew I wanted to play Gulbano as soon as I heard the story in the first meeting. Working with Shahzad Nawaz, Sawera Nadeem, Bilal Abbas and the rest of the cast is a dream come true moment for any actor. The direc-

tor, Anjum Shahzad worked on every minuscule aspect of the show that made me want to portray Gulbano at the maximum capacity. It is incredibly exciting to know its release on Zindagi, Indian audience has always been generous with their love, and I am eagerly anticipating the response to our heartfelt tale."

Talking about Abdullahpur Ka Devdas's release on Zindagi, producer Shailja Kejriwal said, "The story unfolds in a small town Abdullahpur, seamlessly intertwining passion, heart-break, and unexpected twists, revealing the intricate web of relationships. Abdullahpur Ka Devdas delves into the human heart, showcasing how love's highs can also bring unexpected turns and deceit. I can't wait for you to experience the captivating storytelling and powerful performances by our talented actors, portraying characters that resonate with the universal ebb and flow of love"

Prayed for peace, prosperity of people in J&K: Ajaz Jan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 9: Ajaz Jan, Provincial President Youth National Conference, Jammu, was felicitated by the Youth National Conference Office bearers and Senior leaders of the party, after performing Umrah coming back to Jammu and Kashmir at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu on Friday.

During his Umrah, Ajaz Jan informed that he along with Dr. Farooq

Abdullah and Omar Abdullah prayed for the peace and prosperity of people of the country in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

They also prayed that the peace will always prevail in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ajaz Jan asked the party workers to gear up for upcoming parliament election to ensure a smooth victory of National conference so that people get rid of the governance that has given them nothing

except miseries.

Those who were present on this occasion: Abdul Majeed Larmi former MLA, Rahim Daad Ex-MLC, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Th.Yashu Vardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Umesh Talashi Additional Spokesperson Kashmir, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Zamir Quersh, Mudit Seth, Kousar Malik, Ashanand and others.